

U.S., Noriega strike deal

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. and Panamanian negotiators were close to final agreement Wednesday on a deal that would lead to the resignation of Manuel Antonio Noriega as Panama's defence chief and his exile, a U.S. official said. The official, who insisted on anonymity, said it was his understanding that an agreement was "consummated this morning" but added that the package could not be considered completed until Noriega confirms it with a public announcement. According to the official, both governments were preparing formal announcements. The key provisions of the deal reportedly include Noriega's resignation as commander in chief of Panama's defence forces in August and subsequent departure from Panama, and the dismissal of U.S. drug charges against him. The U.S. Cable News Network quoted Panamanian Ambassador Juan B. Sosa in Washington as saying a deal had been worked out. Sosa told the network Noriega was to make a formal announcement in Panama Wednesday afternoon. Sosa has been allied with U.S. efforts to ease Noriega from power and remains loyal to the Panamanian president who was ousted by pro-Noriega forces.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية. الراي.

Peace conference opens in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (AP) — Chanting Iraqis greeted more than 1,000 representatives of political parties, liberation movements and trade unions from dozens of countries Wednesday at the opening of a conference to discuss how to end the Gulf war. The opening of the conference coincided with Iraq's announcement of a major ground offensive against Iranian forces east of the Iraqi port city of Basra. "Yes to peace and no to war," chanted a crowd of thousands of Iraqis at the opening of the "Global Popular Conference on Peace." Addressing the gathering, First Deputy Premier Taha Yassin Ramadan reiterated his country's readiness to end the war on the basis of United Nations Security Council Resolution 598. Ramadan said Resolution 598 was "viewed by the world-at-large as a balanced resolution constituting a sound basis upon which the conflict between Iraq and Iran can be resolved." He said participants in the conference could contribute to bring an end to the war. The conference includes representatives of various Iranian opposition groups who are battling the government of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Volume 13 Number 3789

AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY MAY 26-27, 1988, SHAWWAL 11-12, 1408

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Kuwaiti paper backs Jordanian proposal

KUWAIT (Petra) — A recent proposal by His Majesty King Hussein for setting up a pan-Arab rapid deployment force has been praised by a prominent Kuwaiti Arabic daily. In an article signed by chief editor Ahmad Al Qaq, the Kuwaiti Arabic daily Al Ra'i Al Aam said the King's proposal should be approved by Arab leaders during their extraordinary summit scheduled to be held in Algeria June 7. "It is a practical proposal and would contribute to enhancing Arab solidarity," Al Ra'i Al Aam said. The paper also paid tribute to Jordan's role in removing Arab differences.

Prince Nayef blasts Iran and Israel

RIYADH (R) — Saudi Arabian Interior Minister Prince Nayef Ibn Abdul Aziz was quoted Wednesday as accusing Iran and Israel of inciting inter-Muslim strife. The Arab News daily quoted Prince Nayef as saying Tehran and Israel incited friction between Shi'ite and Sunni Muslims and between Muslims and Christians. "The evil designs of Tehran and Tel Aviv, as well as their collusion, are well known. It bodes ill for everybody," Prince Nayef told the daily. "It is high time to put an end to the irresponsible acts of the Tehran regime," he said. The minister said Arab unity was needed to confront Israeli aggression against the Arabs and to restore the rights of the Palestinian people.

U.S.: No role in Iraqi attack

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The United States denied Wednesday an Iranian charge of American complicity in an Iraqi raid May 14 against Iran's Larak Island, at the entrance to the Gulf, in which four large oil tankers were damaged. "The United States categorically rejects these accusations as totally unfounded. The government of the United States has no advance knowledge of Iraqi intentions and in no way facilitated the Iraqi attack," acting U.S. Representative Herbert Okun said in a letter to Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Hanoi announces troop withdrawal

HANOI (R) — Vietnam said Wednesday it was withdrawing 50,000 troops from Kampuchea by the end of this year and placing the remainder under the Kampuchean military high command, Western diplomats said. They said they were told in a briefing by a senior foreign ministry official the phased withdrawal would begin in June and observers would be invited.

Romania denies heavy water report

VIENNA (AP) — The Romanian government denied Wednesday that it re-exported 12.5 tons of Norwegian heavy water to Israel, the official Agerpres news agency reported. The report, monitored in Vienna, said: "The Romanian news agency is empowered to deny this piece of information and to state that never did Romania sell heavy water to Israel." Agerpres said the Hungarian Communist Party daily Nepszabadsag and Hungarian radio and television, in a "false report," had accused Romania of having sold Israel a quantity of heavy water imported from Norway. Agerpres ignored an official Norwegian inquiry about whether Romania had in fact resold heavy water.

Walters: U.S. seeks peace in Mideast

ABU DHABI (R) — U.S. envoy Vernon Walters said Wednesday he had discussed ways of enforcing a ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war during a visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Walters, Washington's ambassador to the United Nations, held talks with UAE President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayan and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Rashid Abdullah Al Naimi. "Our policy is aimed at bringing about peace in the Gulf and the Middle East," he told reporters after the meeting.

Rifai: Middle East peace needs joint U.S.-Soviet stand

By Alistair Lyon
Reuters

AMMAN — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai said Wednesday progress on Middle East peace was impossible without a joint U.S.-Soviet approach.

"The Soviet position has developed enormously... we find it very reasonable," Rifai said, referring to the role of an international conference on the Middle East.

"I think the United States realises that for its initiative to succeed it must reach an agreement with the Soviet Union so that the initiative becomes a joint Soviet-American position," Rifai told a conference of Reuters journalists in Amman.

He said Moscow now advocated an "effective" rather than

an "authoritative" conference, making clear it did not seek a conference able to impose or veto solutions.

"We are still engaged with the United States and we hope in the forthcoming visit of Mr. Shultz to see if more progress can be made," the prime minister said.

U.S. Secretary of state George Shultz plans to return to the Middle East for the fourth time this year June 3, just after next week's U.S.-Soviet summit in Moscow.

Rifai said an active Soviet role



Zaid Rifai

was needed because the United States had failed to live up to commitments backing full Israeli

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Palestinian tribute to Wazir paralyses occupied territories

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A Palestinian general strike virtually shut down the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip Wednesday, and the Israeli army put at least five refugee camps and Palestinian villages under a curfew requiring the residents to stay in their homes.

In the West Bank, Israeli soldiers shot and wounded a Palestinian boy during a clash with protesters throwing stones and bottles in the Nur Al Shams refugee camp, officials at Rafidiyah hospital told the AP.

A military spokesman confirmed a boy was shot in the camp Wednesday, the AP said. Hospital officials said the victim, Nasser Sulayman, was in critical condition with a gunshot wound in the

chest. Tuesday night, soldiers shot and wounded an 18-year-old Palestinian during a similar clash with stone-throwers in the West Bank town of Tulkarem, officials at Tulkarem hospital said.

Palestinian sources told Reuters there was no traffic in the streets of the occupied territories. Palestinians stayed away from their jobs in Israel but schoolchildren attended classes in many places at the urging of uprising leaders.

Palestinians said troops fired rubber bullets and teargas at protesters in Rafah who burned tyres and hurled stones at the soldiers. The army closed a girl's school in Jabalya for a week.

In the Gaza Strip, an Israeli army spokesman said troops

placed the Al Bureij refugee camp under curfew after a soldier shot dead a Palestinian who allegedly attacked him while resisting arrest Tuesday night.

Camp residents identified the dead Palestinian as Saad Mohammad Al Lulu, 52. Palestinian sources quoted by Reuters said he was killed during a series of arrests in the camp.

During Wednesday's general strike, an indefinite curfew was clamped on the Dheisheh refugee camp, largest in the West Bank, and four locations in Gaza.

The strike was called to mark the end of mourning 40 days after the assassination in Tunis of Khalil Wazir (Abu Jihad), deputy

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Israeli forces storm Lebanese villages, battle resistance fighters

RASHAYA, Lebanon (Agencies) — Israeli troops and their Lebanese allies Wednesday punched out of Israel's self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon and battled resistance fighters in three villages which were also the targets of intense air attacks.

Sources quoted by Reuters said at least 60 resistance fighters of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah were fighting some 500 Israeli troops and South Lebanon Army (SLA) militiamen who raided the village of Louwazeh, two kilometres outside the "security zone."

The Israeli-SLA force advanced towards the village, a stronghold of the Hizbollah, under cover of heavy artillery fire from batteries inside the zone, they added.

The Hizbollah-run Voice of Islam radio station said the group's fighters were "locked in fierce battles with the troops and inflicted heavy casualties on them." It gave no details.

A police spokesman said nine people were killed and 14 wounded in the battles.

He said about 750 SLA militiamen were involved in the operation which included the villages of Soujoud and Mleekh.

"The two warring sides are using knives and bayonets in their house-to-house battles inside the village, (Louwazeh)," a security source told Reuters.

Israeli Army Chief of Staff Dan Shomron said Israeli aircraft, tanks and artillery had supported the SLA attack on the village. But he said no Israeli troops had gone beyond the northern boundary of the "security zone."

The SLA militiamen, backed by Soviet-designed T-54 tanks, "overran" Louwazeh at midday (1000 GMT), and were fighting Hizbollah's pockets of resistance in the village of Mleekh, the spokesman said.

He said another SLA force, advancing behind a fierce barrage of Israeli howitzer fire, engaged Hizbollah fighters in a separate battle at the southern entrance to the village of Soujoud.

Louwazeh is eight kilometres north of Soujoud and Mleekh is midway between the two villages.

The three villages are about 1.5 kilometres west of SLA-held mountains that link an enclave southeast of the port city of Sidon with Israel's "security zone"

along the Lebanese border.

Most of the population in the three villages had fled in recent months as Hizbollah increased its armed presence and began using the region as launching pad for resistance attacks against the SLA and Israel.

Security sources in South Lebanon told the AP the SLA push came hours after Israel massed a mechanised force of about 600 troops in mountainous areas near Marjayoun.

The attack was the most intense in the area since May 4 when Israeli soldiers killed about 40 Hizbollah fighters and lost three of their own men while storming Maidoun village.

Beirut war ebbs; 'final' Hizbollah push expected

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Pro-Iranian Hizbollah militants prepared Wednesday for a final blitz to drive Amal militia rivals from their last stronghold in Beirut's southern suburbs, security sources said.

The sources, quoted by Reuters, said Hizbollah (Party of God) fighters traded sporadic machinegun and mortar fire with Syrian-backed Amal militiamen after fierce battles Tuesday in which Amal was driven from one of its last two bases in the suburbs.

Witnesses and security sources told Reuters Hizbollah fighters were setting up more sand barricades and reinforcing their positions with dozens of fighters in preparation for a new offensive.

Hundreds of Hizbollah militants, clad in olive green fatigues and brandishing medium-calibre weapons, took new combat positions facing Amal's last boldout in Chiyah district.

They removed from the narrow, rubble-strewn alleys the charred bodies of Amal fighters who died trying to repulse Hizbollah attacks in Ghobeiri district Tuesday.

"We will continue our thrust until total victory. We won't stop until we gain domination of the suburbs," one Hizbollah fighter in Ghobeiri told Reuters.

Meanwhile Syria was reported Wednesday to have warned Hizbollah not to harm foreign hostages they held.

Beirut's leading newspaper Al Nahar said Syria, which has thousands of troops with tanks ringing Beirut's slums, warned Hizbollah that harming any of the hostages would be considered an "infringement of Syria's security."

The daily cited no source for its report and did not elaborate. Syrian spokesman declined comment.

Lebanon's acting prime minis-

Jordan celebrates Independence Day

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Wednesday celebrated the 42nd anniversary of its independence from Britain with festivities throughout the Kingdom.

Highlights of the celebrations included the inauguration by His Majesty King Hussein of the new traffic interchange at the Sports City and Ministry of Interior circles and a reception hosted by the prime minister.

The King, accompanied by Her Majesty Queen Noor, attended the reception hosted by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai at the Prime Ministry gardens. The reception was attended by a number of senior civil and military officials and notables.

Later, the King inaugurated the traffic interchange.

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Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor at Ministry of Interior circles interchanges Wednesday the formal opening of the new Sports City and (Petra photo)

Iraqis liberate southeastern areas

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq said it defeated Iranian forces occupying territory east of the port city of Basra Wednesday and drove them back into Iran in a nine-hour battle.

"Units of the presidential guards and the Third Army Corps have completely liberated the Shalamcheh area and drove the invaders out of the borders into their territory," a high command communique said.

"The invaders retreated in defeat towards their land after being burnt by Iraqi fire and many were captured in the third and last phase of the offensive which ended at 6 p.m. (1400 GMT)," the communique said.

Without directly confirming the Iraqi gain, Iran said its forces had withdrawn to new positions Wednesday after fierce fighting on the southern warfront.

"Following intense encounters with the forces of the enemy which

begin today at dawn in the region of Shalamcheh, the combatants of Islam have had to withdraw from part of the captured positions," Tehran Radio said.

"The combatants of Islam at present are stationed in the new positions and are replying to heavy fire of the enemy artillery," the radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, said.

Wednesday's Iraqi communique said the retaken territory included the Jassim and Du'eji river areas, Towella Island in the Shatt Al Arab waterway and the Bubiya and Kut Al Suwadi border posts.

"After our victory we reiterated our adherence to the path of peace and we are now more ready than before to implement U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 with goodwill," the communique said.

It warned Iranian rulers that

"any manoeuvring or any attempt to stick to the aggressive path will render nothing good to them... the path of peace, respect of the rights of the people of the region, is the only way for them to live in stability."

President Saddam Hussein returned from the warfront Wednesday after personally supervising operations, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said.

An earlier communique said Iraqi troops also drove the Iranians from the southern end of the Fish Lake, an area artificially flooded as a defensive measure.

The Iraqi high command said Iraqi forces fully destroyed five Iranian divisions in the fighting around Shalamcheh, southeast of Basra.

Iran occupied the Fish Lake and other areas mentioned in the communique early last year, after battles which claimed tens of

thousands of casualties on both sides.

The Iranians occupied Shalamcheh itself during their push towards Basra in 1986.

The muddy strips of land around the town are important supply routes across the Shatt Al Arab waterway dividing the countries.

Iraq said its jets flew more than 1,000 kilometres to attack the Naga power station in northern Iran, an hour after the start of the Shalamcheh offensive.

A high command communique said the "very important" power station was reduced to rubble as part of efforts to cripple Iran's economic base.

A military spokesman said helicopter gunships shot down two Iranian bell helicopters in a dogfight over the northern warfront.

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Crown Prince urges increased transfer of U.S. technology to Jordan, joint projects

PITTSBURG (Agencies) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday opened a seminar here on trade with and investment in Jordan. Pittsburgh which is considered as one of the leading financial and industrial centres in the United States.

In an inaugural address, the Crown Prince reviewed U.S.-Jordanian cooperation in trade, industry and fields of economy and urged stepped-up efforts for transfer of American technology to Jordan and establishment of joint U.S.-Jordanian industrial projects.

There is a real opportunity for bilateral cooperation in this field on the public and private sectors following the legislation of incentives on investments in Jordan, Prince Hassan said.

He said Jordan's central geographic and strategic location in the Middle East enables the Kingdom to play a communicative role linking the Arab World and South Asia on the hand and Europe on the other.

Following are major excerpts



HRH Crown Prince Hassan

from the Crown Prince's speech:

"The regional burdens confronting Jordan have been especially compounded by the effects of two decades of Israeli occupation on the West Bank and Gaza. The economic regime imposed by the Israeli authorities was designed to maximise economic gains for the Israeli economy at the expense of the West Bank

and Gaza. The domestic economies of the occupied territories have been fully subordinated and exposed to the Israeli economy in what can best be described as a one-way free trade arrangement. Accordingly, these territories became the second largest market (after the U.S.) for Israeli exports which enjoy free access without hindrance or tariffs while exports from the West Bank and Gaza face numerous barriers and constraints. Israel's foreign exchange gains from such an arrangement have been in excess of half a billion dollars annually.

"In parallel, and as a result of the unregulated exposure of the economies of the West Bank and

Gaza to the more advanced and heavily-subsidised Israeli economy, the occupation structure within the territories has been totally transformed... and with the absence of job-creating investments, their labour force has been converted into a source of cheap unskilled labour for the Israeli economy.

"Official Israeli statistics show that there was no growth of employment within the occupied territories between 1970 and 1985 (152,000 and 153,000 respectively) while the figure of West Bankers and Gazans employed in Israel (mainly as daily labour in

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Reagan heads for Moscow summit on optimistic note

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — U.S. President Ronald Reagan began his journey to the Soviet Union Wednesday, saying U.S.-Soviet relations had come far since his first summit with Mikhail Gorbachev in 1985 but much remained to be done.

Speaking at a White House departure ceremony under a steady rain, the U.S. leader said there would be "plenty of work" for him and Gorbachev during their Moscow summit starting Sunday.

"We have many differences — deep differences, moral differences," Reagan said.

"But we are still fellow human beings. We can still work together to keep the peace. And in working with the Soviet Union, the United States can still remain true to its mission (of) expanding liberty throughout the world," Reagan said.

Before leaving with his wife, Nancy, for a stopover in Helsinki, Finland, the president asked for the prayers of Americans "as I embark on this great task."

"Since my first meeting with Mr. Gorbachev... we have come a long way," Reagan said. "My task in the next week will be to go still farther, farther in

the interests of peace. Farther toward a universal respect for fundamental human rights. Farther toward world freedom. Farther toward a safer world for all people," he said.

Reagan left without a ratified U.S.-Soviet treaty banning medium-range nuclear missiles, the highlight of his last summit in December with Gorbachev (see page 8).

As West German newspaper, quoted Reagan as saying he hopes he'll reach an intercontinental missile reduction treaty with the Soviets and raising the possibility of a fifth summit meeting with Gorbachev.

The conservative newspaper Die Welt also said Reagan was urging other North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) member nations to pick up more of the alliance's defence costs. Die Welt said the interview was conducted in Washington.

"President Ronald Reagan figures that the START (strategic arms reductions talks), which foresees the halving of nuclear intercontinental missiles, still can be brought to completion before the end of his term," the Bonn-based newspaper said.

Censorship, house arrests are common in occupied territories

This is the third part of a six part series in which the exercise of academic freedoms in Palestinian universities of the occupied Arab territories are discussed. This study was presented to the UNESCO at its hundred and twenty-seventh session by Father Edouard Bone.

Censorship

Perhaps paradoxically, one of the most authoritative persons we spoke to believes this matter to be one of absolute priority in the protection of academic freedom.

While the occupying authority generally shows tolerance towards works published in English or any other European language, there is strict censorship of anything published in Arabic. We were told that any work published in Arabic was liable to be banned, and it is reported that there is a list of some 1,600 to 2,000 which have in fact been banned. This figure, quoted by M. Benvenisti in a study written in 1983, reputedly accounts for only 3 or 4 per cent of the works in Arabic imported by the Palestinian universities, but "represents 100 per cent of the works expressing, developing or promoting the national sentiments of Palestinian Arabs and their national heritage."

In point of fact the figures concerning banned works are open to discussion: Depending on the source, they are in flagrant contradiction, ranging from 300 according to the Israeli authorities to some 2,000 according to certain university presidents. The Rapporteur was unable to obtain a clearly stated list.

The Israeli authorities admitted that some of the books available in the Hebrew Universities may be banned in the territories because of their "notorious" or aggressive anti-Semitism, which is to be found sometimes merely in the preface to an otherwise harmless classical text. "Notorious anti-Semitism" is no doubt an ambiguous expression: On several occasions, I was told that the mere mention of the word "Palestine" in a work was enough to have it banned or expurgated. Lack of time and, particularly, lack of knowledge of the Arabic language prevented me from verifying this accusation personally.

But there is no doubt that the question of censorship is still a very sore point. Its application in practice is deeply wounding to the Palestinians, who see it as a major breach of academic freedom. In their view its endorsement in university circles reflects

an inquisitorial approach incompatible with the functions of criticism and research specific to a university. (Military order No. 101 even formally requires prior authorisation for the publication and distribution of all printed documents).

One university president said that the measures applied in practice were more of an irritation than an actual curb on academic work. This opinion is not shared by several colleagues who feel that, as regards reviews and periodicals, genuine damage is done, with serious consequences, since periodicals published in Arabic are said to be systematically excluded. From a list of 300 periodicals in Arabic available at the library of the Hebrew University, selection of 60 was made by Birzeit University, and subsequently cut down to only 30; in fact only one subscription is regularly received by the university library. With the exception of a few Egyptian magazines, the whole Arab cultural environment is affected by this, since Arab cultural identity is being systematically destroyed.

Moreover, in addition to the withholding of scholarly literature, censorship is a pretext for forcible entry into private homes, with night raids on homes and libraries on grounds of suspected violations. Incidents are bound to arise, setting off an inevitable train of events of which there have been all too many grave examples in the last six years or more.

The occupying authorities' interference in curricula, study programmes and the opening of new departments, and as regards permits

The universities continue to complain of considerable interference as regards the development of new departments or the facilities or equipment required for the proper functioning of the university.

Prompted in particular by a desire to adapt their courses to economic requirements and the labour market, the university authorities seek to open new departments, but have been refused permission to do so.

For six years Bethlehem Uni-

versity has been applying for permission to train tourist guides. Requests for agricultural science faculties have been systematically turned down (except at Hebron); likewise the request for a School of Nursing at Gaza, the Faculties of Education and Law at Hebron and a Fine Arts Department; and for the Industrial School at the Hebron Polytechnic and the School of Public Health at El Bireh.

There are complaints of administrative delays or obstruction as regards building permits. It is said that several universities have only half-completed or even barely begun buildings (Al Najah, Gaza, Hebron Polytechnic), while others have to content themselves with cramped facilities, or even tents and huts that are totally inadequate to their needs (Gaza). Extensions to buildings are often held up, for instance at Bethlehem. In some cases recourse has been necessary to the supreme court (for instance at Birzeit and Al Najah). At Hebron, buildings have had to be rented in five different places, located three or four kilometres away from each other, and for the last five years it has not been possible to install proper telephone links between the various buildings.

I counted some 30 students sitting at their computer terminals in a space which should normally contain only about a dozen. "Breathing space" is reduced to an absolute minimum, and this generates tension and potentially explosive situations. Another factor, which is undeniable is that Hebron Polytechnic, which is spread over five buildings (including four rented buildings, 40 per cent unsuited to university purposes, some of them several kilometres apart and with little communication between them, with the Electricity Department split into two geographical entities) possesses a huge plot of land where new buildings could be put up, has had comprehensive, detailed plans for new facilities drawn up and has the money for the new buildings, but has been waiting for the necessary authorisations since 1979.

Difficulties in transferring funds from abroad affect university activity all the more when it is heavily dependent on non-local or national resources. There are various orders regulating the transfer of funds, and difficulties may arise as a result of that

freezing of accounts in local banks, prohibition orders on transfers, the imposition of more or less unfavourable exchange rates, or taxes on the funds withdrawn. The loss due to the last two factors is reported in some cases to amount to 20 to 30 per cent of the funds intended for the university.

Personal freedom

House arrest

A very great number of senior university officials complain of restrictions to personal freedom, particularly the growing number of assignments to forced residence within a given perimeter, for a duration of six months or more. Birzeit University gives a list of 14 names for the 1985-1986 university year. Seven of the persons concerned were banned from the West Bank after six to twelve months of "restriction." It is said that none of them has been charged with any specific subversive offence or been brought to trial. It is claimed that the military commander issuing the restriction order is not required to state the grounds for the order. The only "justification" given for the penalty inflicted is reported to have been "expression of an opinion deemed undesirable by the authorities."

Al Najah University has a list of 11 students under house arrest as at March 10, 1987; and on March 18, 1987, there were ten students from Birzeit University under restriction, most of them banned from residence on the West Bank. On July 20, 1987, 19 students and one employee of Birzeit were under a restriction order.

Administrative detention Military orders No. 378, 815 and 876 authorise administrative detention without sentence for a period of six months, renewable. The Minister of defence, Yitzhak Rabin, has been applying this measure to the Palestinian universities since August 4, 1985. Nine members of the university community of Birzeit suffered from it in 1985-1986. Not one of them was indicted. They are said not to have been informed of the grounds for their detention, the charges brought against them being kept secret and disclosed neither to the suspect nor to his lawyers. It is, however, significant that

among the first 62 victims of administrative detention, 33 were students. The university authorities claim that the measures are dictated by political circumstances, "in particular pressure by the Israeli settlers on the West Bank demanding repressive measures against the population of the occupied territories; and that student leaders are set up as 'scapegoats'."

In 1985-1986, Birzeit students were held in custody under administrative detention orders for a total of 1,121 days. On March 10, 1987, there were nine members of academic community of Al Najah held in administrative detention.

In 1986-1987, it is reported that 94 students and six teachers from Birzeit were held, 71 per cent of them without charges being brought even after a total of 811 days in prison. Nine of them are reported to have been convicted of an offence, only one of which was "serious."

On June 10, 1986, Professor Ruth Gavison, speaking on behalf of the Civil Rights Association in Israel, recognised that there had been a drastic increase in this form of administrative penalty in recent months.

Arrests

Military order No. 378 authorises any member of the police force or the military to arrest and detain a person without any further formality. Beyond a period of four days, detention can be extended for a week by an officer, and for another week by a superior officer. This means that it is possible for a person to be held in custody for 18 days before being brought to trial. Unless bail is granted, access to a lawyer or a representative of the Red Cross is usually not authorised during this period.

In 1984-1985, 90 per cent of the students of Birzeit who were held under this form of custody for more than 24 hours had no charges brought against them. In 1985-1986, the figure was 62 per cent, with a total of 794 days of imprisonment. Such a high proportion of arrests without charges clearly raises the question of whether this is a routine practice of an arbitrary measure. From what some senior university officials say, it often happens that the student is released the day before the regulation 18-day deadline authorised by the order. They interpret this as being deliberate:

the period of detention without charges is long enough to affect seriously the individual's university studies, but too short to mobilise human rights organisations into protesting. This is a serious accusation and was taken up by Amnesty International in its 1985 report.

It is disturbing to see detention used not for purposes of investigating a suspect or a guilty party, but as a means of intimidation and of obstructing the life of an individual or a community. It is also scandalous to see cases of detention accompanied by inhuman and degrading treatment (physical violence, psychological harassment, deprivation of sleep, obscenity, etc.).

A very recent report (March 1987) published by Al Najah University contains precise and particularly impressive lists of names of students in prison, in administrative detention or under house arrest on March 10, 1987.

Imprisoned (for 3 months to 10 years) — 14 students

Detained and released before March 10, 1987 — 31 students

Administrative detention — 9 students

Deported — 2 students

House arrest — 11 students

Murdered in obscure circumstances — 4 students

Birzeit University drew up a similar report in March 1987 for the 1986-1987 academic year:

Detained — 11 students

Convicted — 8 students

Acquitted — 3 students

Released on bail — 1 student

Released without charges (after 1 to 23 days of detention) — 42 students

Under restriction (since February 17, 1986) — 17 students

Detention (especially the 18 days of imprisonment without the possibility of consulting a lawyer) and inhuman or degrading treatment are said by some to be sufficiently everyday occurrences for the International Commission of Jurists and its West Bank branch to publish two reports in 1984 and 1985 concerning the prison of Al Faraa, and for the Chairman of the Commission of Inquiry into the violence perpetrated by settlers against Palestinians, Yehudit Karp, to resign out of disappointment with the government's passive attitude during the investigations.

There is no doubt that from all the testimony gathered, in particular by the United Nations

Special Committee on Human Rights and previous studies by other commissions on academic life in the occupied territories, there are reports of brutality, ill-treatment and even torture. Since the Rapporteur was unable to question those responsible in the Israeli administration on this subject, he prefers to reserve judgment here and to let those who have been able to express their views take responsibility for their statements.

Arbitrary interference in private life

Article 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaims that "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence."

Universities have always regarded this sacrosanct nature of their privacy as a corner-stone of their academic freedom.

Hebron, Al Najah, Gaza and Birzeit universities have on occasion in recent years been the scene of raids or searches, sometimes carried out in the dead of night and involving violent clashes with students. The Rapporteur heard numerous witnesses to this effect. Two pregnant women students from Hebron University are even said to have had miscarriages as a result of these measures.

The Palestinian universities have not been spared violence during the present academic year, 1986-1987. Tear gas is used even within closed premises (contrary to the strict instructions printed on the canisters); firearms left three dead and some 14 wounded, some seriously, on the Birzeit campus during the events of December 4, 1986 and April 13, 1987. One student was deported. Night raids were reported on November 2, and March 19 at Birzeit, and on November 28, December 16 and March 8 at Al Najah. I was not there in person and cannot therefore give an opinion on either the circumstances or the conditions in which the raids were carried out. The universities complain that raids are regularly accompanied by degradation, damage and unjustified confiscations. I was able to see for myself the results of one of them, in an administrative building at Hebron, where the door-frames of a series of offices had been smashed in, as if a place

where it is difficult to imagine any physical resistance being offered; it appears that the search (if it was justified) could just as well have been carried out by requesting politely that the doors be opened.

Pupils prevented from taking the Tawjihi examinations

A recurrent complaint has been reaching UNESCO for years now. It was expressed on numerous occasions to the Rapporteur during conversations he had with Palestinians interviewed at the universities in the occupied territories. It concerns pupils required to sit the Tawjihi examination (matriculation) on completion of their secondary schooling. It is claimed that the Israeli authorities systematically arrest a large number of young candidates on the eve of their examination, thus in effect preventing them from sitting it. It is said that they are released a few days later, without any charges having been brought against them. But this "trivial" incident authorised by detention or restriction orders means that they lose a whole year.

This accusation crops up too frequently for the Rapporteur to overlook it. Are these merely unfortunate coincidences, with sufficiently serious consequences for them to be noticed and interpreted in a negative light because of the climate of protest and aggressiveness which all too often prevails in relations between Palestinians and the occupying power?

The overwhelmingly unanimous answer given by the academics interviewed was that the number of obstructions of this kind could not be viewed other than as systematic and deliberately intended as harassment. Three of the people we spoke to added that the choice of students prevented from taking the Tawjihi corresponded in fact with those whose record of "resistance" or "non-cooperation" made them obvious targets for harassment or revenge.

The Israeli authorities whom I questioned on this subject acknowledged that in fact there had been some obstruction as regards admission to the Tawjihi examination in the past; but they said that it was now totally condemned and had therefore ceased.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 73111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
17:35 Children programme
18:25 Arabic documentary
18:50 Moving Camera
19:20 Health and Life (local)
19:30 News reports
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:45 Arabic film
23:00 News summary in Arabic
23:10 Film contd.

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Rue Carnot
18:30 Le Monde magique de chantal Goya
19:00 News in French
19:15 Varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Charlie Chaplin
21:10 Wish Me Luck
22:00 News in English
22:20 Feature film: "Impostor"

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 960 KHz. SW
Tel. 73111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsweek
08:00 Morning Show
08:30 News Summary
09:00 Morning Show Contd.
10:00 Country Music
11:30 Hitsville: The story of Motown
12:00 News Summary
12:45 New Music
13:00 News Summary
13:05 Pop Session
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Instrumentals
14:30 Hall of Fame
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:05 Instrumentals
16:30 Old Favourites
17:00 Hitsville: The story of Motown
17:30 Good Vibrations
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Our Mutual Friend
18:30 Music
19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
21:05 Evening Show Contd.
21:50 News Summary
22:00 Evening Show Contd.
23:00 News Summary
23:05 Evening Show Contd.

FOR FRIDAY

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 73111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

10:00 Koran
10:30 Children programme
11:55 Religious programme
12:50 Friday's prayer
13:30 Soccer
14:25 Religious seminar
15:15 Film
18:15 Viewers choice (Arabic)
19:40 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arab territories
21:30 Arabic series
22:00 Varieties
23:00 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsweek
08:00 Morning Show
08:30 News Summary
09:00 Morning Show Contd.
10:00 Country Music
11:30 Hitsville: The story of Motown
12:00 News Summary
12:45 New Music
13:00 News Summary
13:05 Pop Session
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Instrumentals
14:30 Hall of Fame
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16:30 Old Favourites
17:00 Hitsville: The story of Motown
17:30 Good Vibrations
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Our Mutual Friend
18:30 Music
19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
21:05 Evening Show Contd.
21:50 News Summary
22:00 Evening Show Contd.
23:00 News Summary
23:05 Evening Show Contd.

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* Permanent book exhibition, at Tower Building, Jabal Amman, 3rd Circle.

* Plastic art exhibition by Ghada Dahdala at Petra Art Gallery.

* Art and handicraft exhibition at Rosary College, Jabal Amman.

* An exhibition about flower arrangement by Ma'la Adnan Massarat at the French Cultural Centre.

* A permanent exhibition of plastic art by 27 Arab artists at the Plaza Hotel.

* An exhibition of art, folklore and Arabic calligraphy at Irbid Community College.

* Folklore exhibition at Hawwarah Community College.

* An art exhibition by Lebanese artist Mahmoud Safa at Alia Art Gallery.

* Two exhibitions at the Goethe institute: one is about the development of typesetting and mass printing and the other is about German Woodcuts.

FEATURE FILM

"The Magnificent Ambersons" at 7:00 p.m. Thursday at the American Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre .. Tel. 6610297

American Centre Library .. 64571

British Council .. 6316178

French Cultural Centre .. 637099

Spanish Cultural Centre .. 642039

Goethe Institute .. 641993

Spanish Cultural Centre .. 642039

Turkish Cultural Centre .. 63777

Haya Arts Centre .. 663195

Husseini Youth City .. 6671816

Y.W.C.A. .. 641793

Amman Municipal Library .. 636111

Univ. of Jordan Library .. 843555

12:00 News Summary

12:05 Listeners' Choice

12:30 Country Music

13:00 News Summary

13:05 News Summary

13:30 News Bulletin

14:00 Jordan Weekly

14:30 Jordan Weekly

15:00 In Concert

16:00 News Summary

16:05 Country Music

16:30 Old Favourites

17:00 In Concert

18:00 News Summary

18:05 Top Twenty

19:00 Music

20:00 Discovering Music

21:00 Pop Talk

22:00 Rhythm and Blues

23:00 The Musical in Review

24:00 Close Down

BBC WORLD SERVICE
629, 720, 1323 KHz

Mariy's Memorial (Military)

Memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Spots City, Amman. Opening hours 9.00 a.m.-4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 642341.

SERVICE CLUBS

The Amman Lions Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Regency Palace Hotel, 7:30 p.m.

Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7:30 p.m.

Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2:00 p.m.

Royal Automobile Club. Jabal Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 616334. 817534.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 624594.

Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Lweibdeh, Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, Tel. 601757.

Terracotta Church (Roman Catholic). Jabal Lweibdeh, mass in Italian language, meet every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 622366.

Church of the Annunciation (Greek Catholic) Jabal Lweibdeh, Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, Tel. 625383.

Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 771331.

St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, Tel. 771331.

American International Church (Interdenominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani. Tel. 677534.

Evangelical Lutheran Church (Church of the Good Shepherd) Amman, Arabic Service: Sunday 7 p.m. Rev. N. Smir, tel. 811295.

Rainbow Congregation (meets at the Good Shepherd Church) English Service: Sunday 6:30 p.m. Tel. 922605. Rev. Veldi.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormons) Tel. 815817. 821264.

12:00 News Summary

12:05 News Summary

12:30 News Summary

13:00 News Summary

13:05 News Summary

13:30 News Bulletin

14:00 Jordan Weekly

14:30 Jordan Weekly

15:00 In Concert

16:00 News Summary

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21:00 Pop Talk

22:00 Rhythm and Blues

23:00 The Musical in Review

24:00 Close Down

BBC WORLD SERVICE
629, 720, 1323 KHz

Brunei minister to arrive next Wednesday

AMMAN (Petra) — Brunei's Minister of Religious Affairs Haj Mohammad Haj Sarudin will arrive in Amman Wednesday on an official visit to Jordan at the head of an official Brunei delegation.

Sarudin will meet with Minister of Aqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat and other officials, to discuss bolstering bilateral cooperation in religious affairs.

During his four-day stay in the country, Sarudin will visit a number of archaeological sites.



KING MEETS CATHOLICS: His Majesty King Hussein and Her Majesty Queen Noor receives at Al Nadwa Palace Wednesday the Armenian Catholics of Silicia Karekine II and his accompanying delegation. Catholics Karekine praised the King's continuing efforts to unify Arab ranks and the King's heroic stands towards

the Palestinian people and Jordan's stand vis-a-vis the Lebanese crisis. The audience was attended by Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Lebanese Ambassador in Amman Pierre Ziyadeh and Patriarch of Jerusalem Yeghishe Derderian (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

Karekine II voices solidarity with Palestinians Armenian Church leader praises King's efforts towards peace

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lebanon-based spiritual leader of Armenians drew parallels between the Palestinian and Armenian causes and expressed Armenian understanding for the Palestinian plight.

"We understand their cause very well because we were denied our rights too," Catholics of Silicia Karekine II, who is currently visiting Jordan, told the Jordan Times. He said Armenians in his constituency would appreciate any endeavour which would bring recognition "to help the Palestinians regain their rights," and expressed his personal appreciation for His Majesty King Hussein's efforts in that field.

The Catholics, who arrived in Amman Monday, relayed his deep "appreciation and gratitude to King Hussein for all he did and continues to do for the Arab nation, especially Lebanon."

He added that he was very impressed with the "incomparable development in Jordan particularly in the capital Amman."

The Catholics, who studied theology in Oxford University, said he was pleased with the skill of the people of Jordan under the wise leadership of King Hussein, which, he said, "clearly indicates devotion to promotion of human life in Jordan."

Karekine II said that the purpose of his visit is to relay brotherly love to Jordanians, Palestinians and Armenians in Jordan "whom we keep very close to our heart."

In answer to a Jordan Times question on the future of the Armenian problem, the 56 year old clergyman said the Armenian cause will not die because it is a "just cause, rooted in historical grounds."

Karekine II added that the Armenians will continue to press for "their rights and self auton-

omy," and that with such a viable cause "the Armenian cause will not become a dead one."

The Catholics of Silicia, whose church carries jurisdiction over Lebanon, the Gulf and parts of Europe, the United States and Canada, pointed out that the problem facing the Armenians so far has been that "our cause is not well known."

But His Eminence, who is also the deputy chairman of the World Council of Churches, added that he does not "believe in violent methods (to achieve the people's aspirations) because I do not believe that violence is beneficial."

He cited as example of hope for the Armenian cause, the meeting of American President Nixon and Chinese leader Mao Tse-Tung "who would have ever said, 40 years ago that they would ever meet? History is unpredictable," he said.

Karekine II, told the Jordan Times that the Armenian community in Lebanon stands "basically with centrality of legal authority in Lebanon," and that the conflict in Lebanon cannot be solved by fighting. "Therefore

the Armenians in Lebanon do not participate militarily in the internal conflicts," but he stressed that they remain "positively engaged."

He added that Lebanon has shown that it is a "country where sharing together in government and public services should not be destroyed." He said the Lebanese people, regardless of their political or religious affiliations, "should maintain this basic character," and that they should be more "expressive for their desire for unity."

Karekine II called on "all our friends within the Arab nation and in the world," to extend help to the war torn country.

He added that there is "contusion in Lebanon," before the general elections, scheduled to be held on August 23, and called upon all Lebanese to "provide the new president with an opportunity" to prove himself.

He used the French word "assemblement" in describing the role of the next president of Lebanon, "a person who can assemble all the people together," he explained.

Seminar on low-income housing ends

AMMAN (J.T.) — A four-day seminar on ensuring homes for low-income families in Jordan has ended in Amman, with the participants calling on private sector investors to help in the Urban Development Department's (UDD) endeavour in providing homes for people with low or limited income.

The recommendation was contained in a final statement issued by the 150 participants in the seminar organised by the Housing Bank at the Amman Plaza Hotel.

"Private investors in housing projects ought to set up a union

that would be entrusted with organising building operations and the process of investment in housing," the statement said.

Such union, it said, would represent investors at meetings with the government and provide information on investments in housing schemes.

The statement urged the government to make available more plots of land of no less than 150 square metres in area, for the construction of modest homes for low-income people.

The statement called on major companies, organisations and other institutions in the Kingdom

to encourage the establishment of housing funds that would enable their employees to benefit from their loans in setting up their own homes.

"These funds ought to provide soft loans for building, and the Housing Bank ought to finance the purchase of land for such projects," the statement proposed.

The participants in the seminar included private investors in construction projects, representatives of construction companies and experts from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) as well as the Housing Bank.

NHF aides leave for conference in Canada

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two senior officials from the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) have left for Canada to take part in an international conference on charitable work.

The conference, in which various world charitable organisations are taking part, is devoted to studies on means to promote and encouraging charity work and enabling participating organisations to exchange views and information on charitable and voluntary work worldwide, according to a report in Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily.

Shammout elected head of AULT

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab Union of Land Transport (AULT) which is holding general assembly meetings in Amman Wednesday elected Mansour Shammout from the Ministry of Transport in Jordan to serve as the union's secretary general.

The union's board of directors groups representatives of 15 countries which are union members.

The General Assembly meetings were opened here Tuesday with the participation of all union members.

Acting Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Hisham Al Khatib opened the five-day meetings with a call on the union members to produce a set of unified specifications for roads, bridges and vehicles employed on the roads in the Arab world.

Shammout replaces Abdullah Dmour as the union's secretary general.

Jordan, Kuwait sign cultural pact

KUWAIT (Petra) — Jordan and Kuwait Wednesday signed a memorandum of understanding covering educational and cultural cooperation between them.

The memorandum provides for facilitating secondment of university teachers, developing cultural cooperation, and providing scholarships for Kuwaiti students in the fields of science, medicine, and dentistry.

The memorandum also covers integration of summer school programmes between the Jordanian universities and the University of Kuwait, an exchange of books and bulletins in the field of education, cultural conferences and seminars and cooperation in the field of technical and scientific research.

It also covers exchange of visits by university students, exchange

of information about higher education institutes abroad, and coordination with regard to equivalence of university certificates.

The memorandum was signed on the Jordanian side by Minister of Higher Education Nassereddine Al Assad and on the Kuwaiti side by Education Minister and Acting Minister of Higher Education Anwar Nouri.

Majali takes part in security talks

TUNIS (Petra, J.T.) — Jordan is taking part in the Second Arab conference of officials in charge of security at borders, airports and sea ports which opened in Tunis Tuesday.

The delegates will direct their attention to means of ensuring security and preventing infiltration and smuggling through airports, land border posts and sea ports in the Arab World, by adopting up to date methods and employing modern detection equipment.

Jordan's delegation to the conference is led by Public Security Department (PSD) Director General Lieutenant General Abdul Hadi Al Majali.

Majali addressed the meeting Tuesday on the question of com-

prehensive security and the need for inter-Arab cooperation for protecting the Arab society.

Majali said that collective efforts should be made to protect the Arab order and to safeguard Arab interests.

Majali was quoted last month as saying that the PSD was planning to use helicopters for monitoring traffic and border areas and was recruiting staff to operate these services.

He was also quoted by the local press as saying that the PSD has set up 64 security centres since 1985 in a bid to expand the duties and the activities of the police, and to involve members of the public in the process of safeguarding internal security.



Abdul Hadi Al Majali

Dahdaleh's paintings reflect soft, vivid liveliness

By Salameh Boulos
Jordan Times staff reporter

AMMAN — Ghada Dahdaleh's silk paintings speak for themselves, and for her, far better than she speaks of her work currently on show at the Petra Bank Gallery. An instant expression of soft and vivid liveliness pervades the exhibit room decorated with her watercolour-based French dyes on silk, depicting various kinds of flowers.

Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Doudin, who inaugurated the exhibition Monday, described the exhibition's

effect on the audience accurately when he said: "It is a nice exhibition... it makes people a little happy in such depressing times."

ART REVIEW

The size of the flower paintings, which is far bigger than life size, creates fine decorative lines and colour schemes that are compatible with big space. Interior designer and director of the Fine Arts Institute Hazem Rifai said the accuracy in details and colour separation and combination added to a neat decorative effect. The soft-spoken Ghada, 25,

follows seven steps when preparing one of her works. The steps include research of the subject of her painting, sketching the subject on paper, white-washing the silk and ironing it on the drawn out paper and tracing it on the silk piece. She then uses a wax pen to emphasise and separate colours, then colours it with French dyes before steaming it and using a pressure process as a finishing step. The work is then pressed between two plates of glass and framed.

The artist sees her present work at "a transitory phase" and hopes to return to her abstract style with acrylic on canvas and

mixed media paintings on hand-made paper. Her work on exhibit, which makes use of an effective though expensive technique, is mostly suitable for interior design purposes in homes as well as in hotels, hospitals and big halls. This is mainly how her work must be judged.

Ghada, who finished her secondary education at the Sisters of Nazareth School in Amman in 1981, graduated from Central Technical College of Art in Toronto, Canada in 1984. This is her second solo exhibition in two years in addition to taking part in group exhibitions in Jordan and Canada.

Children in Arab World do not live their dreams, Egyptian professor says

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — "Children in the Arab World do not live their dreams, but the dreams of adults," said a professor at Egypt's National Institute for Social Research.

Soheir Loutfi, who is also a lecturer at several Egyptian universities, said Arab children often live their childhood without knowing their rights or freedoms or even being aware that they are entitled to them.

Two predominant reasons why children are denied their basic human rights were traced by Loutfi.

During a lecture at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation on "children's rights: The differences between context and reality," she pointed out that the inability of the Arab family to adjust to the changes of society and the lack of an Arab ideology and a national plan which includes the development of children, have played a decisive role in formulating an attitude and environment, reinforced by society, which denies children their basic human rights.

In the past the extended family was the household system and the basis of the economy. "The breadwinner of the family was the 'godfather'. In such a family there is no discussion, no democracy, the 'godfather's' word goes," said Loutfi. Since the breadwinner controlled the economy of the family, he could also control other aspects of the family's life.

Meanwhile, the mother's role was to give the children everything they needed as a way to make the children dependent on the family, thereby coercing them into following their wishes.

To further explain her point, Loutfi said, "If the mother is a farmer then she wants her daughter or son to be a farmer, or if the father is a doctor, he wants his son to be a doctor. Both do not regard the 'real' needs of the children."

This traditional value system was necessary as long as the economic base of the family rested with the extended family. However, Loutfi stressed that now the economy has been transferred from the hands of the state, and needs the help of all the members of the family.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Loutfi discussed the new "job" for the family. "The traditional roles of the family members must be transformed as must the criteria and value system which controls the process of socialisation. Since the family is no longer the unit for production and consumption. If not, the present economic system may be threatened," she warned.

Loutfi believes the family

should produce independent and nationalist children of the future whose loyalty is first to the state and then to the family. "A high degree of awareness is necessary to bring up the children of the future. The family must now look at the 'real' ability of the child and the 'real' needs of the society. An environment must be created which will give the child an opportunity to break away from his family at one point."

In order to form a new value system, the dichotomy of the old criteria and the new criteria which come with development must first be overcome, "then we can find a value system which suits us," Loutfi said.

However, she said this would not be an easy process since "families have gotten used to the traditional roles."

In addition despite the radical changes which have taken place within the Arab societies, there are factors outside the infrastructure and superstructure which encourages the continuation of the traditional roles. These factors are present to a lesser degree in advanced countries as well, she said.

"Equally important to the adjustment of families to the changes in the society, is the development of an Arab ideology and a national plan which implements programmes for the 'real' needs of children," Loutfi said on the surface the programme for children, in the social welfare sense, seems "fantastic", however, when the content is studied, "it is just a facade. All the programmes concerned with are food, shelter and clothes for the children."

She stressed that these aspects are needed for human rights, but that does not mean "they are the 'real' human rights."

According to Loutfi the programmes may be used for political or economic aims or they may not be appropriate for all children. "Often the programmes are geared to the needs of the children of higher social class at the expense of the children of less social classes."

In addition to looking at the needs of all the classes, Loutfi believes the psychological needs of the children should also be delved into. "We need studies to show the 'real' psychological needs. If children could express their needs, I think they will become a formidable political force, but they are handicapped and therefore, can not express themselves."

Foremost in the programme should be the characteristics of "what is an Arab child." She said: "This factor should include aspects of the society, behaviour and age. For example a person is considered a child if he or she is between the ages of 6-12. However, in the rural parts of the Arab



The child farmer

World a child of six may be a labourer. We must see the characteristics of the Arab societies, to define the characteristics of the Arab child."

A critical view of the present children's programmes should be incorporated into a national development plan. "The Arab Child should not be isolated from the development of his country. Solving his problems does not only mean solving society's problems but having an ideology of our own," said Loutfi.

"Although the Arab states have their independence, they are still politically, socially, economically and culturally, depen-

dent." She called on the Arab intellectuals to clarify the Arab ideology and its tools.

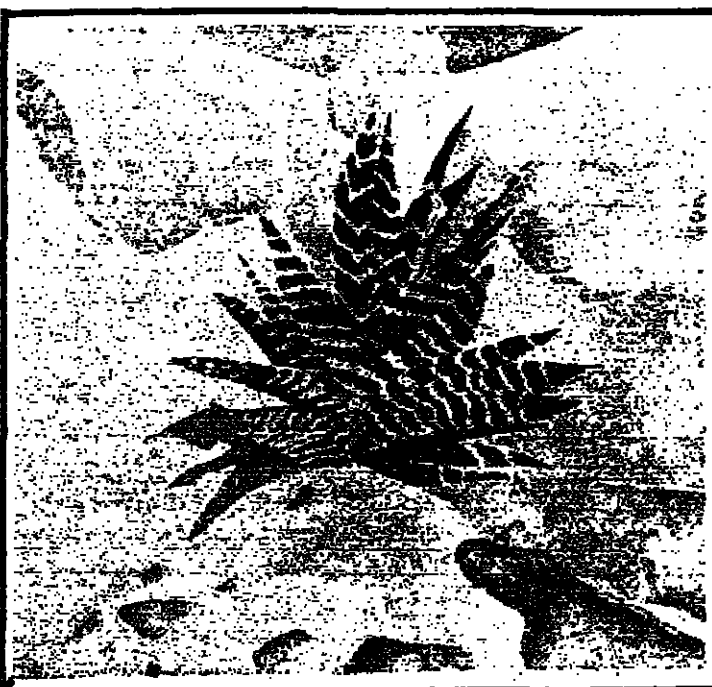
"There is some exploitation of the child in capitalist and socialist societies, but at least have their independence, an ideology and a plan."

For a child's development it is essential to know what the role of society is and what tools it will use to instill social and material values in the child within an ideological frame, "otherwise when there is another children's conference, it won't have any effect since there is no plan or ideology."

British Airways are pleased to announce that its Concorde hot air balloon will be flying over Amman (depending on weather conditions) in the early mornings of May 25, 26 and 27 and will be at the Al Rumman Hill Climb on May 27.

Please watch out for this large silver coloured balloon over the city.

BRITISH AIRWAYS



"Cactus", from Ghada Dahdaleh's works currently on show at the Petra Bank Gallery



Cymbidium Rosana, an originally white flower, made pink by the artist

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

الجزيرة الأردنية السياسية اليومية المنشورة بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
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Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171-6, 670141-4, 666265-2

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO
Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Give and take in Africa

BY some strange coincidence, Israeli leaders are trumpeting their success in making inroads into African diplomacy and bilateral relations with African states at a time when the leaders of Africa are meeting in a summit in Addis Ababa. Israeli President Chaim Herzog's exuberant declaration that his country was not only strengthening relations with African countries but is also hoping to consolidate these ties with diplomatic links should be a resounding message to the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit in the Ethiopian capital. No doubt, the major issues facing the summiters include how to continue to support liberation movements in Africa, with particular emphasis on southern Africa and the apartheid regime in power in Pretoria. But, judging from what we hear from the Israeli side as well as international assessments, it appears clear that a good number of the African states pay only lip-service to the concept of liberation and freedom movements since there is little doubt that they are engaged in clandestine "arrangements" with Israel for bilateral cooperation and assistance in the form of technology and other.

The root cause for Israel's "diplomatic success" could be traced to the apparent indifference attitude of some Arab countries in the context of cooperation with and aid to Africa. This indifference has been exploited by Israel, which is more than willing to welcome with open arms those African states which turn to it for assistance, albeit in some cases as a last resort. The statement by black South African leader Nkomo of Soweto, the cradle of black nationalism, that he could not "equitate the Israeli-Palestinian problem with the black-white problem in South Africa" is a firm pointer to the cleverly-engineered Israeli political campaign underway in Africa. This should sound alarm signals in Arab capitals which boast of continued support in Africa for Arab causes.

Arab conferences and summits routinely issue declarations in support for liberation movements in Africa, but very little appears to be done further to extend material aid to freedom struggles in the continent. There is no sense in denying it; this is a give-and-take business, and African states do look to affluent Arabs for assistance. When the giver is absent, it is anybody's business to step in.

Very little could be achieved by sending messages of solidarity to the African leaders unless accompanied by a sound, long-term political strategy to reassert African solidarity, politically and otherwise, with Arab causes.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Independence Day

INDEPENDENCE Day is a day of rejoicing for the Arab people of this country and it is an anniversary in which every Jordanian takes pride. The birth of Jordan came about as a result of the sacrifices and the struggle of leaders of the Great Arab Revolt who dedicated their time and efforts to bring freedom and unity for the Arabs, Jordan, which celebrates Independence Day today, was the first fruit of the long struggle against colonialist rule achieved by the leaders of the Great Revolt. Jordan and its leaders and people are still waging their struggle for the very principles and objectives of the revolt that broke out earlier this century under the leadership of Al Hussein Ibn Ali. Independence Day is a time for remembering the sacrifices of our leaders and the achievements over the years and the objectives which are to be attained. It is a day to remember that the leader of the revolt and his descendants succeeded in protecting Arab land and providing freedom and dignity to the Arab people. It is a time to remember the need for preserving these gains and for making Jordan a fortress in the face of external threats and challenges. The Independence Day anniversary is an opportunity to pledge continued cohesion and support for the Jordanian leadership and the endeavours of the country's Armed Forces for their efforts and for their sacrifices.

Al Dustour: Jordanians rejoice

THE Jordanian people today rejoice over the anniversary of Independence as it reminds them of their liberation from colonial rule. It is indeed a moment to reflect upon the achievements realised under King Hussein's rule, carried out in true commitment to the principles and the goals of the Great Arab Revolt. Independence Day serves as a reminder to the people of Jordan of the great sacrifices offered by the leaders of the Great Revolt and their dedication and continued efforts for their countrymen. The 42nd independence anniversary finds Jordan a strong fortress standing firm in the face of all ambitions and expansionist designs by the common enemy, and finds Jordan still guarding the longest confrontation lines, providing protection to the Arab World at large. Independence came about as a result of the diligent work and the relentless endeavours of the people under their Hashemite leadership and with the strength and the protection of the Armed Forces. Independence Day finds Jordan's economy strong and progressing and serving as a model for other developing nations. Jordan, after 42 years of independence is still firm in its commitment to the national causes and true to its support and backing for the Palestinian people and their struggle for freedom.

Sawt Al Shaab: Prosperity and unity

FOR the Jordanian people, independence means the first step towards achieving prosperity and unity for the Arab World. This anniversary serves as a reminder for the Arab people to work more seriously and with total dedication for achieving the objectives of the Great Arab Revolt, led by Al Hussein Ibn Ali of Mecca. That revolt broke out in Hijaz to spread throughout the Arab World, preaching freedom and unity and prosperity for the Arab people. Independence for Jordanians means remembrance of the sacrifices of the leaders of the Great Revolt and their confrontation of conspiracies and colonial ambition in our land. The anniversary is also a reminder of the great efforts and the sacrifices of the armed forces under the Hashemite leadership which fought against the enemy in the 1948, 1956, 1967 and 1973 wars alongside the armies of the Arab countries defending the dignity and independence of the Arab people. Throughout its history under the Hashemite rulers, Jordan has been and will continue to be a staunch supporter of the Palestinian people's struggle until they achieve their national objectives.

Who leads the uprising: Confused Israeli answers

By Dr. Asa'd Abdul Rahman

SINCE the outbreak of the current Palestinian uprising, Israel has been suffering from a state of relative embarrassment in the military, political, economic and moral fields. This is clearly manifested in the inability of the Israeli leaders to agree on one specific notion regarding the uprising, its beginnings, motivations and leadership. In this respect, Israel is still living in a chaotic state, with contradictory and often irreconcilable views. Observers can easily discern clear-cut stages in Israeli officials' search for an answer as to who organises, motivates and leads the uprising.

What can now be considered as the first stage of repercussions which characterised the Israeli information policy during the first days of the uprising has now become increasingly clear. To the Israeli officials, the uprising was nothing more than scattered cases of disturbances resulting from a feeling of frustration and despair after the Amman summit relegated the Palestinian cause into second place after the Gulf war, and the superpower's summit in Washington failed to bring forth a coherent "attention and just solu-

tion" to the problem. Hence the Israeli belief that the uprising would soon lose momentum and fade away. This premature optimism on Israeli behalf was accentuated by the belief that the uprising was nothing more than spontaneous, unrelated disturbances that had no connection whatsoever with the Palestinian "terrorist" organisations. This Israeli-made image as to the motives of and the forces behind the uprising explains the arrogant behaviour of the Israeli leadership, so much so that both Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Rabin saw no need to cancel or amend their prearranged tours outside Israel. This excessive confidence soon aggravated the Israeli predicament and added to its confusion. The "spontaneity theory" first circulated by the Israelis, was adopted and emphasised by many political observers and parties, both in the West and in the Arab World alike, to serve certain political ends. This theory, which Israel spared no pains to emphasise every now and then, was cleverly manipulated by many forces in the Arab World. Why, then, should the West antagonise an uprising which Israel itself

believes was spontaneous, and unconnected with Palestinian "terrorism"?

When the uprising continued unabated and increased both in size and intensity, the Israelis found themselves completely unable to explain this qualitative development, especially after their hasty pre-conceived interpretations and justifications following the first days of the uprising. This necessitated a shift in the Israeli information policy, which flatly contradicted their earlier policy. It was then that the second stage started. No spontaneous and isolated movement could survive isolated from its motivating forces.

The aims and identity of the uprising were made clear beyond any doubt in the numerous slogans that were used and the various pamphlets that were distributed on a wide scale inside the occupied territories. The presence of numerous foreign correspondents' television crews and news agencies and newspaper reporters all helped in confirming the exact identity of the uprising. The political and organisational connection of the uprising with the PLO was made clear in the

uprising's various slogans, pamphlets and literature. At this stage, Rabin returned from his U.S. tour with a firm determination to implement the "iron fist policy", after he "discovered" the relationship between the prevailing violence and the Palestinian "terrorist" organisation. Observers could easily discern that the first aim of the Israeli political offensive was to find a reasonable justification for the large scale killing and bone-breaking policy which invited world-wide condemnation from the West and from within Israel itself.

The second aim of this new Israeli policy was to adjust itself to the facts disseminated by Western mass media, that the uprising had a unified and secret leadership that leads and directs its daily battles, and that that leadership was connected with the PLO. Israeli credibility suffered a serious blow: it could no longer ignore the facts that were made public by various television networks and foreign correspondents.

With the persistence of the uprising, Israeli leaders realised its detrimental effect on the Israeli society that had shielded

itself behind phony beliefs. The Israelis had to admit that the PLO was the motivating force behind the uprising, an admission that would have given credibility to the Arabs' resolution that the PLO was "the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people."

At that point began the third stage, reflecting more embarrassment and confusion in the Israeli political and information policy. Israel issued confused and often irreconcilable statements affirming, on the one hand, the "spontaneous nature" of the uprising and, on the other, that the uprising was not spontaneous and that its relationship to "terrorist organisations" could be established.

Often, a third approach was adopted: The uprising was spontaneous but was forced to give its leadership to the PLO and other "terrorist" organisations. This omni-faced and contradictory behaviour still governs the Israeli political and information policy, rendering it unable to give a clear answer as to the motivators and actual leadership of the uprising.

The outside world realised the confusion that characterised the Israeli political and information

policy, thus aggravating it even more. The absence of a coherent understanding of the motivating forces behind the uprising soon led to a loss in the credibility of the Jewish state itself. The Israeli confusion was made worse due to world-wide sympathy with the inhabitants of the occupied territories. This sympathy was made possible due to, first, the just cause of the Palestinians; second, to their unremitting determination to resist the Israeli invaders; and, third, to their own understanding and style of human struggle, a struggle which has so far abstained from bloodshed, despite all incentives to the contrary, and, or to their unlimited willingness to sacrifice when "democratic" Israel decided to spill their blood and break their bones.

Israel, this time, found itself substantially lost. The international community has finally decided to believe what it sees on television and what unbiased news agencies convey to it. The world has decided, thanks to the uprising, to believe what the Israeli racist killer is actually doing, rather than to believe his phony tears.

OAU observes silver jubilee amid dismay, anger, hope

By Jonathan Wright
Reuters

ADDIS ABABA — Africa observes the 25th anniversary of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) with a mixture of dismay, anger and hope.

Dismay at the continent's economic decline... anger at the survival of white rule in South Africa and Namibia... hope that leaders may learn from their past mistakes.

The main celebrations are taking place Wednesday in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa where, on May 25, 1963, the leaders of 32 independent states signed a charter pledging to work for the political unity of the continent.

The membership of the OAU grew to 50 as new countries became independent.

But the dream of unity has faded as African leaders grappled with the more urgent task of instilling a sense of nationhood in peoples split by tribe and language.

"I don't know whether the new generation of African leaders have Africa very much in mind. We are so preoccupied with national problems," said Julius Nyerere, former president of Tanzania and one of the OAU's founding fathers.

"At that time we saw Africa and we talked about Africa. (But now) we are more Tanzanians than Africans and the Kenyans are more Kenyans than Africans, whereas at the time we were not," he said in a recent interview.

Journalists who attended the inaugural meeting in 1963 said many Africans deeply believed that the dream of Ghanaian leader Kwame Nkrumah — a united states of Africa — would come to pass in their lifetimes.

Economic preoccupations have also eroded the will for unity in Africa, where average real incomes have been falling for more than a decade and the burden of

external debt — now more than 200 billion dollars — diverts funds from development.

In the 1960s the continent's future looked bright. Exports were buoyant, commodity prices attractive and most countries showed healthy balance of payments surpluses. Nigerian economist Adebayo Adedeji told a OAU foreign ministers meeting in Addis Ababa last week.

The downturn came in the early 1970s when the price of oil and other imports rose sharply without similar increases for the raw materials Africa exported, he added.

In 1988 the cost of servicing the continent's foreign debts has risen to 34 billion dollars a year, from seven billion in 1977, and last-minute economic reforms so far show only mixed results.

"As we celebrate, let us ask ourselves about the opportunities lost during these past two-and-a-half decades, about decisions which needed to be taken but were not taken... about failures to match promise with performance and words with deeds," Adedeji said.

Of Africa's 53 states, only South Africa and Namibia, where white minorities continue to dominate black majorities, have never been OAU members. Morocco withdrew in 1985 after the organisation gave full membership to the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic (SADR), the diplomatic arm of the Polisario guerrilla front.

The dispute over the Western Sahara, claimed by both Morocco and the SADR, is one of the most bitter in the OAU's history and, with a long-running civil war in Chad, brought the organisation close to disintegration in the early 1980s.

Two attempts to hold an OAU summit in the Libyan capital Tripoli collapsed in Aug. and Nov. of 1983.

The first meeting failed to get a quorum because 19 states stayed away over the Western Sahara

dispute.

The second was abandoned because members could not agree whether Chad should be represented by Hissene Habre or by Goukouni Oueddei, who had been driven from the country the year before.

OAU officials say the OAU's greatest strength has been the clause in the charter which effectively means that borders drawn by the European powers and inherited at independence remain fixed.

Africa has seen border wars — between Chad and Libya, Mali and Burkina Faso, Somalia and Ethiopia, for example — but the OAU principle has probably helped keep them to a minimum.

"Our founding fathers were wise when they said we should not fight over borders. We should take them to arbitration and then you will be able to live in peace," OAU chairman Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia said in an anniversary interview with Pana, the OAU's own news agency.

In place of full unity, the OAU has adopted the more modest ambition of speaking with a single voice for Africa in international meetings, especially on dealings with the continent's western creditors and in the campaign for sanctions against South Africa.

The search for unity has also shifted towards economic integration, starting with small groups of nations in several parts of the continent.

Regional groupings like the economic community of West African states, the Southern Africa development coordination conference and the preferential trade area in eastern and southern Africa have sprung up with more limited objectives than the OAU originally proclaimed.

In Lagos in 1980, African leaders committed themselves to creating a common market throughout the continent by the end of the century. Already most have begun to realise that even that timetable was far too ambitious.

New French government tiptoes into New Caledonia

By Vanora Bennett
Reuters

PARIS — France's new Socialist government has begun a softly-softly approach to ending discontent in New Caledonia by sending a trouble-shooting mission to its Pacific territory.

The mission arrived on Friday and will spend several weeks on the archipelago where unrest between pro-French white settlers and Melanesian separatists (Kanak) was one of Socialist Prime Minister Michel Rocard's first moves after taking office last week.

Violence in New Caledonia has killed 26 people in the past month, including 19 shot dead when French troops stormed a remote cave where guerrillas were being held hostage.

Appointing the six-man mission to "re-establish dialogue" between pro-French white settlers and Melanesian separatists (Kanak) was one of Socialist Prime Minister Michel Rocard's first moves after taking office last week.

It marks an abrupt change in approach from the confrontational attitude of the former rightist government, which backed settlers' demands to stay French by increasing French military and

police presence on the archipelago.

The Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS), which heads separatist activity, said it was not hostile to the mission.

"The mission will have time to see how the different sides actually behave," an FLNKS official said. "But that is not what we asked for. We asked for a government envoy."

Rocard has set up an inquiry into military and police action ordered by the previous government during the recent violence. He has also flown Kanaks charged with violent crimes for trial in France to remove them from the overheated atmosphere 20,000 kilometres from Paris.

Re-elected President Francois Mitterrand has in the past said he favours bringing more independence to the territory.

But for the moment, caution is the watchword in government circles. New overseas territories minister Olivier Stirn refused to outline his plans until the mission's work is done.

"Let them start work, and don't ask me what we will decide until they have got going," he said in a radio interview.

Tension has eased since Mitterrand returned to power after the May 8, backed by a leftist government after two years of rule by the right.

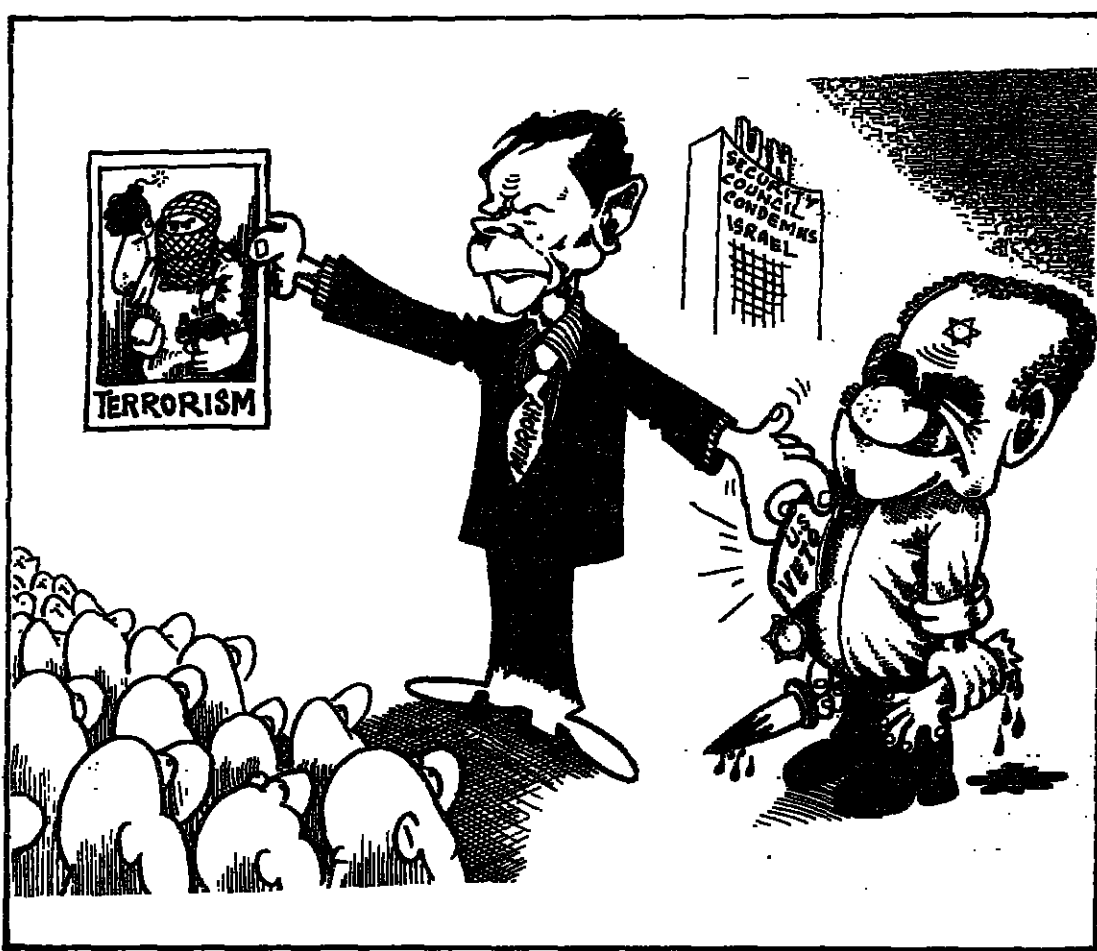
Before the election, New Caledonia was run by hardline right-wing overseas territories minister Bernard Pons. He said repeatedly he would stick by a 1987 independence referendum, which gave a strong stay-French result.

Kanak separatists boycotted the referendum and the presidential election, saying rule by France favoured the settlers. Kanaks make up 43 per cent of the 145,000 population.

Four paramilitary gendarmes were killed when separatists wielding machetes stormed the barracks at Fayoue on the island of Ouvea.

The separatists fled, taking 23 gendarmes hostage, and hid out in a cave on the island of Ouvea till May 5, when police stormed their stronghold on the island and freed the prisoners. Nineteen Kanaks died in the raid.

The Socialist government said this week it was setting up a separate inquiry to look into Kanak claims that French soldiers killed several kidnappers after they had surrendered.



14 years after Nixon, Reagan will find a different Moscow

By Robert Evans
Reuters

MOSCOW — In May 1974, on the eve of Richard Nixon's arrival in Moscow, police raided an apartment in the Arbat district and arrested four defiant young members of an illegal political discussion group.

On a sunny May Sunday in 1988, just a week before Ronald Reagan flies in, a friendly crowd on Arbat street's pedestrian precinct applauds a teenage guitarist for a song poking fun at the KGB — with two grinning policemen looking on.

Fourteen years ago, Auschwitz survivor Nika Shcherbakova ran an underground salon for struggling painters and poets whose works were regarded by the authorities as at best un-socialist and at worst slanderous and anti-Soviet.

Today Shcherbakova has permission to maintain her own art gallery and holds an exit visa for her first visit to the United States to promote the canvases of some of her Moscow artist friends.

Long-time foreign residents and Russians of varying views who have lived through the decade and a half since a U.S. president last came to Moscow agree that the change is dramatic.

And few would deny that the "evil empire" of Reagan's early 1980s vision has been converted with amazing speed over the past three years into what Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev has described as "a huge debating society."

"This is a country struggling to break with years of bans, dogmas and repression," says Anatoly Belyayev, editor-in-chief of the journal "20th century and peace" published by the Soviet peace committee.

"I think the greatest change is that people are no longer afraid," says journalist and writer Arkady Vaksberg. "No one looks over their shoulder any more before they say what they think. And they do say what they think."

Playwright Mikhail Shatrov, an outspoken critic of Soviet support for Gorbachev's "perestroika" reform programme, harangues and audience of elderly educators

with the demand: "Aren't you ashamed of this history textbook you have produced?"

Moscow television tells viewers of the "Stalinist iron curtain" the Kremlin dropped across Europe in the 1940s and, in a programme aimed at young people, shows a video-clip equating the American and Soviet military machines.

Historian Vyacheslav Dashichev tells readers of a popular weekly that Soviet foreign policy blunders were as much to blame for world tension in recent decades as any anti-Communism in the West.

And the weekly supplement of the government newspaper Izvestia runs a letter asserting that Stalin's collectivisation of agriculture in the early 1930s brought more suffering to Soviet peasants than the devastation of World War II.

The picture is not all bright. Soviet residents of other cities and provincial towns report old-style officials still use strong-arm methods against critics and impose their own censorship on local cinemas and theatres.

The top Moscow official in charge of handling relations between the atheist state and religious communities says many of his committee's representatives in the field connive with party bureaucrats to violate the rights of believers.

In the capital, police break up a meeting of a group seeking to form a party to oppose the Communists and put many of its out-of-town members on trains and planes lack home. Some from Moscow get seven days jail on hooliganism charges.

Nevertheless, none are hauled before a rigged court as they would certainly have been in the 1970s to face charges of "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda" and a possible seven-year term in a labour camp.

Gorbachev himself denounces dissident journal editor Sergei Grigoryants, a former political prisoner released under a 1987 amnesty, as an effective hireling of Western anti-Sovieters because he regularly talks to foreign correspondents.

But as if to explain this type of echo of past attitudes, the Krem-

lin leader also tells his own people frequently how difficult it is for him as well to break out of "old thinking" and view the world as it really is.

Police still guard foreigners' housing blocks in Moscow, checking the documents of Soviets entering. And customs officers still routinely search the luggage of tourists entering and leaving the country.

However, an increasingly free-wheeling Soviet press is alive to these and other issues, denouncing official abuse of all hues in ringing tones as violations of the democratisation drive promoted by Gorbachev.

"I could never have believed we would have come so far so fast," says Vaksberg, whose articles on legal justice in the weekly literary gazette were among the few bright spots in the press during the long rule of Leonid Brezhnev from 1964-82.

Exit regulations have been sharply eased. Revised travel regulations allow almost any Soviet citizen who can produce a notarised invitation from a friend or relative abroad to travel to the West, although bureaucrats still stall over the issue of full emigration papers.

"Two years ago, I would never have believed this would ever happen," said one young woman from Riga in the Baltic state of Latvia. "But here I am packing for six months in West Germany."

Shcherbakova, heading for New York in mid-June and later on to London, discounts suggestions by some Soviet emigres that it is all window-dressing on the eve of the summit.

"The human rights situation here today no longer depends on the arrival of some foreign leader," she says. "What is happening is part of a process of internal change that looks more and more as though it cannot be turned back."

When Nixon came to Moscow in 1972 and 1974, Shcherbakova recalls, "it was all very different and removed from our everyday life. But this Reagan summit, we feel it concerns us all. And that is what is really different."

د. اسد عبد الرحمن

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. fines firm for aiding Israel boycott

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Commerce Department Tuesday imposed a \$47,000 fine against Hughes Aircraft Co. for allegedly aiding an Arab League boycott of Israel. Hughes, a Los Angeles aircraft and communications equipment manufacturer, which is owned by General Motors Corp., agreed to pay the fine without admitting or denying the allegations, the department said. In April and May 1983, Hughes allegedly gave the Central Office for the Boycott of Israel, in Syria, information about business dealings it had with other companies with Israel and persons blacklisted by the Arab League, the department said. By providing the information to the Arab League, whose members boycott goods and services from Israel, the department said Hughes violated the anti-boycott provisions of the Export Administration Act.

Remains of two Marines returned home

DOVER AIR FORCE BASE, Delaware (AP) — The remains of two Marines whose helicopter was downed during last month's fighting with Iran in the Gulf were returned here in a brief, solemn ceremony. The remains of Captain Kenneth W. Hill, 33, of Thomasville, North Carolina, and Capt. Stephen C. Leslie, 30, of New Bern, North Carolina, arrived on a C-5A Galaxy transport from Rhein-Main air base in West Germany. The remains are scheduled to leave Dover Wednesday morning for burial at Arlington national cemetery outside Washington. Hill and Leslie were flying a Marine Corps AH-1 Cobra helicopter when it went down in the Gulf April 18, hit by gunfire or a missile. The helicopter vanished on a night reconnaissance mission, a few hours after U.S. and Iranian naval forces had fought a series of day-long clashes in the southern Gulf.

British armed forces minister in Gulf

BAHRAIN (AP) — The British minister of state for the armed forces, Ian Stewart, conferred Wednesday with Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa Ibn Salman Al Khalifa at the start of a two-day visit. The Gulf News Agency said the two officials discussed means of bolstering bilateral cooperation, current developments in the region and issues of mutual interest. It did not elaborate. British embassy diplomats said Stewart was holding discussions on the situation in the Gulf and matters of concern to both countries, again without elaborating. Bahrain is the first leg of a tour by Stewart in the region. Britain is a major arms supplier and military trainer for Bahrain and other Gulf countries that once were linked to British colonial empire. Britain's royal navy also has a task force that patrols the waters of the Gulf to protect British-flag vessels against spillovers of the Iran-Iraq war.

U.S. diplomat criticises Syrian comment

WASHINGTON (AP) — A top U.S. diplomat has criticised remarks by Syria's envoy to the United Nations as anti-Semitic and racist. In a letter Monday to Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress, Assistant Secretary of State Richard Williamson said the "anti-Semitic statement by the Syrian representative ... was an unacceptable use of the (U.N.) Security Council as a platform for spewing racism." Williamson was referring to a statement by Syrian Ambassador Fathi Al Masri May 6 at the U.N. Security Council during a debate about an Israeli incursion into southern Lebanon. Masri said Israel's presence in South Lebanon is aimed at creating "a state of psychosis that will compel the inhabitants of southern Lebanon to abandon their lands and property, thereby ... giving a free hand to the expansionist policy of World Jewish Congress, with Israel as its agent."

Thousands displaced in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's latest refugees are now crowded under trees, in parks and along the seashore after fleeing ferocious militia battles and their unsafe homes in Beirut's southern suburbs.

"We left the hell of the suburbs for the misery of Beirut," said Zahir Gemaa, 40, tears streaming down his face.

Her plight is shared by thousands of people wandering the streets of west Beirut in search of shelter, food and money.

Unable to afford a hotel and with no relatives in west Beirut, Gemaa and her six children have been forced to live in Sanayeh park.

She said she left the suburbs under cover of a now broken ceasefire. Her husband remained to guard their home "because gunmen are stealing anything they can sell."

"I have no news from him yet. I do not know what to do or where to go," she said as her children hungrily shared a loaf of bread.

No precise figures are available, but security sources estimate that up to two-thirds of the 600,000 residents of the suburbs, mainly Shi'ites, have fled since inter-militia battles erupted on May 6.

The lucky ones found sanctuary with relatives or friends in west Beirut, south Lebanon or the Bekaa Valley. The unlucky ones have to live in the open or the temporary shelter of schools or mosques.

Many of the refugees saw their homes damaged or destroyed in the fighting in the 40 square kilometres of alleys and poor dwellings which form the southern suburbs.

Belgian doctor feared kidnapped in Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — A Belgian doctor on volunteer work with Palestinians in South Lebanon is feared kidnapped after disappearing five days ago, police said Wednesday.

Jan Cools, 32, with the Norwegian aid organisation Norwac, had not been seen since he left Rashidiyeh Palestinian refugee camp 80 kilometres south of Beirut Saturday, they said.

Cools planned to spend the weekend in west Beirut but had not been heard of since, his colleagues said.

Cools, a general practitioner living at Rashidiyeh, arrived in Lebanon in early February to work in villages and Palestinian camps in the south.

It was not immediately known whether he disappeared near the camp in the Tyre area, which is under the control of the Amal militia, or on his way to Syrian-controlled west Beirut.

"Due to communications problems, nobody realised that Jan Cools had disappeared before Monday night," one of his colleagues told Reuters.

Investigations and a search by police have failed to locate him and police told Reuters there were fears Cools had been kidnapped.

A spokesman at the Belgian embassy in Beirut said: "We have no clues to give us any hint on his whereabouts."

"On Saturday at 2 p.m. he left a refugee camp in southern Lebanon to pick up his mail in Tyre, and he didn't arrive there," said Dirk van Duppen, a spokesman for Cools's employers, Medicine for the Third World, in Antwerp, Belgium.

"At the moment, there's total confusion," van Duppen told Reuters by telephone from Antwerp. "It is very difficult to

month later.

On March 4, a Briton, Peter Coleridge, working for the British relief agency Oxfam, was seized in South Lebanon but freed after six days.

These were seen as isolated incidents as aid workers, among the few Westerners remaining in Lebanon, are considered largely safe from being kidnapped.

Cools is a bachelor from Limburg in northern Belgium. Five other Belgians are being held in Lebanon. They were seized with three other Europeans last November on a yacht off the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip.

The Fateh Revolutionary Council, a Palestinian group led by Abu Nidal, has claimed responsibility for their abduction, alleging that they were spying on behalf of Israel.

Soviets said ready to grant visas to Israeli diplomats

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The Soviet Union has agreed to grant visas to Israeli diplomats for the first time in 21 years and will issue them after the superpower summit in Moscow next week, according to Israeli news reports.

Israel Radio and television and the Maariv daily said the agreement was reached at a meeting between top Israeli and Soviet diplomats this weekend in Zurich.

An Israeli foreign ministry official, reached by telephone, denied the reports, saying "they are not true."

But the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, confirmed that meetings took place in Zurich between foreign ministry political advisor Nimrod Novick and Vladimir Terasov, the deputy head of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Middle East Department.

"There was progress, but it's little and slow," the official said of the meetings and declined to elaborate.

The Soviet Union broke diplomatic ties with Israel during the 1967 war.

According to the reports, the Soviets have agreed to allow five Israeli diplomats to travel to Moscow to handle the issuing of visas to Soviet Jewish emigrants who are processed through the Dutch embassy in Moscow.

None of the reports gave a date for the visit.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir told reporters in the northern Israeli town of Yotvata that only three government troops were killed in the fighting that also resulted in capturing several rebels and a large amount of arms and ammunition.

Quoted by the Sudan News Agency (SUNA), he said the operation his troops undertook was part of a plan to cripple future rebel activities in south Kordofan during the approaching rainy season.

He did not say when exactly the fighting took place.

since 1967. It has remained there ever since.

An official quoted by Reuters said the Israeli delegation would check the work of the Dutch embassy in Moscow which has represented Israel's interests since diplomatic ties were cut.

The delegation will also visit the building which housed the Israeli embassy in Moscow until 1967 and for which the Zionist state continues to pay rent, he said.

Asked if the team would meet Jews living in the Soviet Union or seek permission for them to emigrate, the official said: "It is not something that was in the discussions."

"The most important part is the symbolism. It is the first Israeli official delegation in Moscow since 1967, just as is the case with the Soviet delegation here," the official said.

"They are not really very busy with work, but it's important they are here," he added.

Sudan says 300 rebels killed in Upper Nile

KHARTOUM (AP) — The Sudanese government said Tuesday its forces had overrun 12 rebel positions in the Upper Nile province near the border with Ethiopia, killing 300 rebels.

Major General Abdul Jilil Al Musharaf, commander of the fifth infantry division in Kordofan, said that only three government troops were killed in the fighting that also resulted in capturing several rebels and a large amount of arms and ammunition.

Quoted by the Sudan News Agency (SUNA), he said the operation his troops undertook was part of a plan to cripple future rebel activities in south Kordofan during the approaching rainy season.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Crown Prince urges increased technology transfer

(Continued from page 1)

construction) increased from 21,000 in 1980 to 89,000 in 1985. This combined growth in employment of about three per cent annually provided about half the jobs needed by the rapidly growing labour force (six to seven per cent annually) in the occupied territories. The balance fell on Jordan's shoulders whereby the East Bank provided most of the extra jobs needed to sustain the population on the West Bank and Gaza. Employment in the East Bank increased by over eight per cent annually between 1970 and 1985 with the number of jobs rising from 258,000 in 1970 to 615,000 in 1985. Many job seekers from the occupied territories also found employment opportunities during these years in the booming economies of neighbouring Arab oil countries. However, since the early eighties, with the economic slow-down throughout the region, these external sources of jobs have dried up, and, for the last few years since 1983-1984, most new entrants into the labour market on the West Bank and Gaza had to start their working lives being unemployed.

"Jordan has tried to do all that it can to alleviate this situation and to draw the attention of the world community. Since 1967 it has kept its markets open to a variety of products from the West Bank, while the Israeli authorities impose barriers on trade from the East Bank to the occupied territories. As a result the East Bank runs a trade deficit with the territories of about \$100 million annually in contrast to Israel's surplus of over \$300 million. Additionally, the Jordanian government has provided support to the inhabitants under occupation through numerous measures. Fiscal allocations through the Jordan government budget were maintained to fund such vital services as education, health and municipalities, although taxes in the occupied territories were levied and collected by the Israeli occupation authorities.

Jordanian commercial banks were kept closed while the Israelis allowed their banks to open but with little or no effect. Mobilisation of resources for investment. Not until 1986 was the first branch of a Jordanian bank allowed to open after strenuous efforts by Jordan. It was evidently a case of too little being done too late.

"In November 1986, and in recognition of the seriously deteriorating socio-economic conditions, Jordan launched a programme of economic support for the people of the occupied territories totalling \$1 billion. Out of its budget, Jordan made a commitment of \$150 million towards this programme. Very little support was forthcoming from the international community. In effect, Jordan was left alone in trying to cope with a situation beyond its control. Jordan's warnings went unheeded and the dangerously destabilising socio-economic policies imposed by the Israeli occupation authorities were left to run their full course.

"The turmoil and suffering and the recent uprising in these territories are, to no small extent, linked to Israeli self-centred economic policies. The tragic situation in the West Bank and Gaza contrasts sharply with the declarations of Israeli leaders in the wake of their 1967 victory when about one million Arabs fell under their occupation. Israeli decision-makers at that time asserted that they would demonstrate to the world a model of co-existence and prosperity among Jews and Arabs under their control. The situation today is a far cry from such a paradigm of welfare and justice.

"Jordan is still determined to do all that it can to safeguard the Palestinian Arab identity of the inhabitants of the occupied territories and promote their welfare and prosperity as the cornerstone of future peace. A number of practical options can be identified including the setting-up of an appropriate international board to supervise and support such development initiatives. A number of multilateral and regional agencies, such as the UNDP and the Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development, are already involved in channelling development funds to the West Bank and Gaza. A pre-requisite for the success of any such arrangements is the mobilisation of the necessary political will which has been conspicuous-

ly lacking among the international community."

Earlier Pittsburgh Mayor Sophie Masloff made a speech welcoming the Crown Prince and paying tribute to His Majesty King Hussein and Prince Hassan's endeavours for achieving stability and prosperity for the whole region. Masloff wished the seminar all success.

The Crown Prince also addressed the Pittsburgh business community at a luncheon Wednesday.

Tuesday a peace conference on the Middle East chaired by world powers would be acceptable as long as its findings remained non-binding on the parties involved.

Whether the conference can be arranged may depend on what happens at next week's Moscow summit between President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, said the Crown Prince.

"We have said non-coercive and no enforcement powers, but at the same time, let's get into one basic issue — the Palestinians," he said. "I think that the watermark will really be what comes out on Moscow, if anything."

The Crown Prince said efforts to establish an international conference have been stalled by Arab objections to ground rules laid out by Secretary of State George Shultz, all regarding the Palestinian issue.

"Shultz's three no's," the Crown Prince said: "No right of self-determination for the Palestinians, no return to 1967 boundaries, and no participation by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)."

Prince Hassan said an international conference, led by the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, has been made necessary by the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, which he called a "seismic" development.

Prince Hassan said the PLO had provided West Bank Palestinians with incomplete political leadership, dwelling on the uprising's tactics and ignoring the area's economic concerns.

Prince Hassan said that an independent West Bank "statelike" would be difficult to establish, requiring that the population be "extremely enterprising" and, possibly, the constant financial support of other Arab states.

He said Jordan was coordinating fully with Egypt and Syria on Middle East peace efforts, but coordination with the PLO was "not on the level we hope will prevail in the future."

On the Gulf war, Rifai said it was clear Iran could not hope for a military victory and should be convinced that a negotiated settlement was the only solution.

"I personally don't believe this will happen as long as (Ayatollah Ruhollah) Khomeini is alive, but the level of fighting... would probably be at a reduced level since the Iranians are unable to launch any major offensives."

Rifai said Iraq was now seeking to regain all territory occupied by Iran, but was ready for a peace agreement on lines laid down in U.N. Security Council Resolution 598.

"The Iraqis are willing, it just needs the Iranian position. We hope that one day reason and logic will prevail," he said.

Jordan celebrates

(Continued from page 1)

The King, accompanied by Queen Noor, inspected the interchange and the related underground passage. Their Majesties were received by Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh and senior municipal officials as well as engineers who supervised the construction of the project.

On the occasion of Independence Day, the King received cables of congratulations from senior Jordanian officials and notables voicing pride in His Majesty's leadership.

They also recalled the King's continuing efforts and endeavours to preserve the unity and independence of the Arab Nation.

The cables were sent to the King by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, Lower House of Parliament Speaker Akel Al Fayez, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Mohammad Muheilan, the directors of the Civil Defence, General Intelligence and Public Security departments as well as representatives of the private and professional sectors in the Kingdom.

The King also received cables of good wishes from kings and heads of Arab and friendly states.

Iraqis retake southeast

(Continued from page 1)

The loss of the Iranian bridgehead near Basra, seized at appalling cost in two months of bitter fighting in early 1987, is Tehran's second major military defeat on the warfront in five weeks.

Iraq's seventh Army Corps, spearheaded by elite Presidential Guards units, pushed the Iranians out of the Fao Peninsula south of Basra in a lightning assault April 16-18, ending a two-year Iranian occupation of the marshy finger of land.

Baghdad Radio broke into its regular programmes to announce "a great victory." Iraqi troops in the capital fired automatic weapons in the air in celebration.

There was no immediate word of casualties from either side. But U.S. military analysts estimate the Iraqis lost at least 25,000 killed in last year's Basra push with the Iraqis losing around 10,000 killed.

Iraq also said Wednesday that an Iraqi counterattack in the mountainous Sulaimaniyah region of northeast Iraq, where the Iraqis seized territory several weeks ago, was crushed, with the attackers taking "heavy losses and casualties."

Iraq's offensive east of Basra, coming only five weeks after the Fao Push, marked a major shift in strategy by Baghdad.

Until the Fao offensive, the Iraqis had fought a static war since 1982 behind formidable defence lines packed with heavy artillery, tanks, rocket launchers and minefields.

Earlier in the week, Iraqi Defence Minister Adnan Khairallah told army commanders during tour of the front that they should be "fully ready" to launch new offensives "if Iran insists on floating" Resolution 598.

Khairallah said the Iraqis would seek to retake territory seized by the Iraqis.

Rifai: Mideast peace needs joint superpower stand

(Continued from page 1)

withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

"Unfortunately the United States has become too closely identified with Israel," he said.

"Without a basic reorientation of the American position regarding its pro-Israeli policy, the United States cannot expect to achieve progress in its attempt to solve the conflict and to settle the Palestinian problem..." he said.

"The United States is the armourer, the banker, the political protector and the economic saviour of Israel. As such, surely it must be in a position to exert influence on Israel to accept a peaceful settlement," he added.

Shultz is proposing an international conference to introduce direct Arab-Israeli talks on limited Palestinian "autonomy" with talks on the "final status" of the West Bank and Gaza to follow.

Jordan insists on an international conference with the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to negotiate an Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank, including Arab Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip and the Syrian Golan Heights.

Rifai said Washington appeared reluctant to accept even an international conference where the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council would be able to make suggestions.

"We asked them (the Americans) what is the role of the conference if it cannot even make non-binding recommendations, individually or collectively..."

"If the conference would use the moral weight of the five and

of world public opinion to assist the parties in arriving at an agreement through direct negotiations... what is it for?"

Rifai said if Washington stuck to a pro-Israeli position it would condemn the Middle East to "decades of instability, violence, upheavals, perhaps even another war, or wars."

Rifai said Jordan would ask the Arab League summit due to convene in Algiers June 7 to discuss the U.S. and other peace proposals. The summit was called mainly to discuss ways to support the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza.

Jordan also wanted to discuss the Iran-Iraq war and aid from oil-producing countries to Arab states confronting Israel, Rifai said.

A financial aid agreement reached at a 1978 Arab summit in Baghdad expires this year. Jordan was allocated \$1.25 billion a year but sums received have fallen well short.

"Certainly Syria and Jordan feel there should be a new commitment for the next few years... what we have received is less than half the amounts allocated, so if not new commitments, at least

paying back everything that hasn't come so far," Rifai said.

Rifai said PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat had accepted an invitation to visit Amman made by His Majesty King Hussein more than two months ago, but no date had been fixed.

He said Jordan was coordinating fully with Egypt and Syria on Middle East peace efforts, but coordination with the PLO was "not on the level we hope will prevail in the future."

On the Gulf war, Rifai said it was clear Iran could not hope for a military victory and should be convinced that a negotiated settlement was the only solution.

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Palestinian tribute to Abu Jihad paralyzes occupied lands

(Continued from page 1)

military commander of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Israeli Radio reported, meanwhile, that the military government in the occupied territories threatened to jail Palestinian property owners for up to five years if they do not wash anti-

Israeli graffiti from their buildings and remove Palestinian flags. The report said those who did not comply could also be fined 15,000 shekels (\$9,670).

An Israeli was indicted for manslaughter Wednesday in the fatal shooting of a Palestinian shepherd May 5 near the Jewish settlement of Shiloh in the West Bank, Israel Radio reported.

In Gaza City, Ahmad Wazir, a cousin of Abu Jihad, said Israeli soldiers showed up at his house and interfered with a reception to mark the end of mourning by tradition.

Abu Jihad was slain April 16 in his Tunis home. Israeli sources later said the attack was carried out by the Israeli Mossad service, the navy and a commando unit.

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AMMAN JORDAN

Reagan's veto of trade bill heats up confrontation

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Ronald Reagan vetoed a major trade bill for the second time in three years, and the House swiftly countered by voting to enact the measure over his objections.

"I am convinced this bill will cost jobs and damage our economic growth," Reagan said Tuesday in focusing his veto message on a provision that would require companies to give their employees notice of plant closings and large-scale layoffs.

Within hours, the House voted, 308-113, to override the veto. The margin was well above the two-thirds majority required, but it was thought unlikely that the Senate would go along when it considers the override after next week's Memorial Day recess.

Sixty House Republicans defected from the administration and voted to override. Only one Democrat voted to sustain the president.

Lawmakers said Reagan's action represented the launching of a major campaign issue.

"I happen to think it's a better issue for the Democrats than for the Republicans," said House Speaker Jim Wright. The Democratic House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Dan Rostenkowski asked, "why hand it to us on a silver platter."

Democratic presidential front-runner Michael Dukakis wasted no time seizing it. He called the veto "unconscionable."

Dukakis said Reagan and Vice President George Bush "don't understand that for working families who struggle to pay the mortgage, save for their children's education and care for their elders, there is nothing more painful than losing a job."

"Any administration that is willing to give General (Manuel) Noriega 120 days notice and a plea bargain ought to be willing to give the American worker 60 days notice before they are thrown out on the street," Dukakis said. He referred to a tentative deal to drop drug charges against the Panamanian military leader if he agrees to leave the country.

The House approved the measure, 312-107, on April 21. Senate majority leader Robert Byrd acknowledged that the Senate would not override the president when it considers the veto early next month, but he scoffed at Reagan's request for speedy

consideration of a stripped-down version of the bill.

A presidential veto can only be overridden if both chambers vote to do it by two-thirds margins.

In particular, Reagan objected to the plant-closing requirement, as well as provisions restricting the export of Alaskan oil. White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said the president would sign a new bill that deleted both sections.

But Byrd warned that it will be "extremely difficult" for a new bill to wind its way through the chamber's complex procedures before its Oct. 8 adjournment.

"Anybody who thinks that can be done in the Senate is simply naive," he said.

Senate Republican leader Bob Dole of Kansas predicted that not only will the veto be sustained in the Senate, but a cleaner version will become law.

"There's enough time. If the House sends us a trade bill and says 'take it or leave it,' I think we'll take it," he said.

Reagan pledged to work for a new bill, saying, "I am committed to enactment of a responsible trade bill this year."

In his conciliatory message to Congress, he said he acted "with sincere regret" and lauded the members for doing a "remark-

able job" during the three years the bill has been under consideration.

Asians welcome veto

Asian nations welcomed president Reagan's veto of the U.S. trade bill, but said Wednesday they still feared an outbreak of American protectionism next year.

"The president's action clearly shows his opposition to protectionism," Japanese Trade and Industry Minister Hajime Tamura said.

Both he and Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita told reporters they were hopeful the veto would be upheld by the U.S. Congress.

Asian businessmen and economists said they are afraid an even more protectionist bill might be passed next year, after Reagan left office.

Asia's economically robust economies — Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore — feel particularly vulnerable to U.S. protectionist pressure because they are all running trade surpluses with Washington.

"Reagan's veto of the U.S. trade bill is good news for the NICs (newly industrialising countries) and it will mean there will be less pressure on us," said G.

Ramachandran, President of Singapore's Federation of Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

But he added, "the pressure will not be off because nobody can predict what the new administration will do."

Fears of an even more protectionist trade bill next year have been fanned by the lead Dukakis enjoys in U.S. opinion polls. The Democrats are generally perceived in Asia as being more protectionist than the Republicans.

"Protectionism will remain until the United States cuts its trade deficit to an extent that they feel satisfied," said Vincent Siew, director of Taiwan's Board of Foreign Trade.

Although the U.S. deficit showed a surprisingly large drop of more than \$4 billion in March, economists fear the improved performance cannot be sustained because the robust American economy is still sucking in imports.

"We welcome President Reagan's veto of the trade bill," a South Korean trade official said. "But the U.S. trade pressure will not be eased."

"The United States is likely to continue to press us to open our market to agricultural goods and their services and to revalue the (Korean) won against the dollar

rather," he said.

Some Hong Kong businessmen and officials said they were afraid a revised version of the trade bill may put heavy restrictions on textile exports, the colony's most important industry.

"The public debate and emotion generated by the veto might breathe new life into the textiles bill which would be a very unwelcome development as far as Hong Kong is concerned," said Hamish MacLeod, Hong Kong's secretary for trade and industry.

Asian economists and policy-makers also expressed disappointment that Reagan vetoed the bill mainly for domestic reasons, and not for the protectionist clauses they say the legislation is peppered with.

The big bone of contention between the administration and Congress was a provision that had nothing to do with trade — it was a clause requiring businesses to give workers 60 days advance notice of plant shutdowns.

"The factory closing provision was the reason (for the veto)," Takeshita said.

"Currently the problem is domestic, but once negotiations (between the White House and Congress) start, problems of interest to Japan will come out," he noted.

Rising metal markets kindle fears of higher inflation

LONDON (R) — Fears of higher inflation are being kindled by strong base metal prices as mining companies fail to keep pace with buoyant demand.

"Higher commodity prices have a direct impact on inflation — they represent actual prices that have to be paid — unlike the more esoteric measurements of shifts in money supply," says Shearson Lehman Hutton metal analyst Neil Buxton.

Dollar prices for metals have jumped in recent months, but dealers noted these were swollen by the dollar's slide. Quotes in European currencies or the Japanese yen rose less steeply.

Some metal traders remain unconvinced that inflation fears are justified and say that at current prices some metals are at their peaks and, regardless of current low stocks, prices for future delivery could fall.

Recent London Metal Exchange (LME) trading has featured huge premiums — backwardations in traders' jargon — for early delivery as powerful trading groups have taken advantage of run-down stocks to make metal consumers pay dearly for badly needed metals.

Premiums are acceptable when consumer demand is strong and low stocks cause a genuine shortage. But, if a merchant abuses his position and "tries to rape the market," the exchange would stop it by using wide-ranging powers, a senior LME trader said.

The LME is a major source of metal comparable to a big smelter or mine/smelter complex and is more reliable than most major mining companies in maintaining supplies, LME traders say.

All LME base metals are now in backwardation. Dealers say such premiums are expected to

last for many months in the case of copper, aluminium and zinc.

But, in the case of lead, Shearson forecasts lower prices and a move to heavy surplus later this year.

The LME's flagship copper contract has shown a premium for more than a year, reflecting supply disruptions in key producing areas of Africa, Latin America and the United States.

Copper demand has also been "strong and stocks are small. LME stocks turned higher last week but this only reflected how well the LME attracts scarce metal with high prices."

Many mines facing strong demand are working close to full capacity, so any disruption or drop in the quality of the ore being mined can quickly cause a hiccup in supplies.

Recently Chile's copper ore had higher amounts of unacceptable impurities such as arsenic and this has disrupted or slowed refined metal production, traders said.

Nervousness over rising prices has had a direct impact on previous metals — the traditional home for capital investors fearing cash will lose its buying power. Platinum hit seven-month highs recently despite concern, officially denied, that South Africa might curtail exports to the West.

But base metals have not needed such outside reasons to justify higher levels. Nickel soared to unprecedented and what even producers consider dangerously high and uncompetitive levels in March.

Industrial demand for stainless steel for purposes such as construction and road tankers has to absorb these higher prices as stainless is vital as a non-corrosive metal.

Study urges cutting farm subsidies

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. trade deficit would be reduced by about \$42 billion, or over one-quarter, if countries followed a Reagan administration plan to scrap all farm subsidies and trade barriers, according to a new study.

The study by 20 economists in five countries also estimates that global farm reform would create up to three million new jobs in the European Community and increase real earnings in develop-

ing countries by \$26 billion. Japanese workers' earnings would rise by 2.5 per cent and rural land prices there would plummet 68 per cent if trade-distorting farm subsidies were curtailed, it said.

The study was managed by the Centre for International Economics, a private economic research agency in Canberra, Australia.

The ten papers included in the study will be released at a conference here later this week sponsored by the Australian Centre

and the American Enterprise Institute, a Washington-based public policy research organisation.

Andy Stoeckel, director of the Centre for International Economics, said the project stemmed from the authors' belief that multilateral efforts to negotiate a reduction in trade-distorting farm subsidies are at an impasse.

"The reason for the lack of reform lies in the lack of political

will by governments to tackle the issue," the study said.

"The weight of evidence on the costs of agricultural policies has not yet convinced people to demand reform from their governments," it said.

In an interview, Stoeckel criticised U.S. trade negotiators for failing to build political support for the administration's farm reform proposal before the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Cyprus plans economic reforms

NICOSIA (R) — A new Cypriot government plans wide-ranging economic changes to deal with problems of high foreign debt and increased competition resulting from a customs union pact with the European Community (EC).

"There are so many things we have to do now which are dramatic," Finance Minister George Symiis told reporters.

"It's a turning point," he said. "Unless we make certain changes and we introduce new technology, then it will be very difficult for us to compete with EC business."

He said President George Vassiliou's government, elected in February, aimed to restructure taxation, give incentives to industry to modernise, reduce public expenditure and streamline the civil service.

It will also try to promote offshore and service sectors as it

reforms the economy to try to compete with the EC under the customs accord, which took effect on Jan 1.

Vassiliou is a millionaire entrepreneur who built a one-man market research firm into a multinational operation and was elected with left-wing backing.

He wants Cyprus to become a regional offshore financial centre. Compared with most developing countries, the island has a high standard of living. Symiis put per capita income at about \$7,000 — much of it dependent on tourism.

Visitors brought in record receipts of \$706 million in 1987 compared with \$565 million in 1986, according to the central bank.

Symiis said this income had kept the servicing ratio on debts of around \$1.5 billion at a low 13

per cent.

Strong exports and expanding offshore business also helped a current account surplus estimated by the central bank at \$110 million in 1987, compared with deficits of \$8 million in 1986 and \$220 million in 1985.

But Symiis said controlling the debt was one of his most serious problems when he took office.

And with major development plans in the pipeline, including airport, port and road improvements and new hospitals and water works, economists said it was unlikely that the debt could be cut easily.

"The implication is that in the short run there will be more borrowing and the measures the government is taking will take some time to be effective," said Planning Bureau Director Symeon Matsis.

EC, Comecon to sign accord in June

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — The European Community (EC) and Comecon, the communist trade bloc, will sign an accord, most likely in Brussels on June 24, formalising their relations, an EC spokesman said Tuesday.

The agreement will be initiated in Moscow on June 9, the spokesman said. It will then be

officially approved by EC foreign ministers in Luxembourg on June 14.

The agreement will mark the first time the Soviet-led Comecon, the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, officially recognises the 31-year-old EC. Talks between the EC and the

Comecon nations — Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Soviet Union, Mongolia, Vietnam and Cuba — began in September 1986.

But they stalled on Comecon's refusal to recognise West Berlin as part of the EC. The problem was solved with the inclusion of a territorial clause in the final agreement that tacitly declares West Berlin to be part of the EC.

But at the same time, Comecon will make a statement reaffirming the validity of separate agreements on Berlin signed by the four powers after World War II.

The agreement of mutual recognition will, in the EC's view, make it easier for Western Europe to sign bilateral trade accords with East European nations.

Livestock co. boosts profit

By Shafi Nicholas
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Livestock and Poultry Company (LPC) increased sales during 1987 and managed to post a 30 per cent higher net profit.

Although the company will not be distributing dividends as it did in 1986, when it gave JD 48,490 to shareholders, LPC boosted net profit to JD 94,577 after it recorded JD 61,773 in the previous year.

The sales figure climbed from JD 1,169,947 to JD 1,350,378.

The company's 1987 total assets/liabilities stood at JD 1,524,857 compared with JD 1,363,335 at the end of 1986. The major items of the balance sheet were:

- 1) Total net fixed assets of JD 475,180;
- 2) Investments in shares and stocks valued at JD 451,273;
- 3) Current assets of JD 515,281;
- 4) Capital of JD 969,795;
- 5) Current liabilities of JD 553,659.

Swiss selling depresses gold price

LONDON (R) — The price of gold fell in midday trading Wednesday as dealers reported major selling in Switzerland.

The selling followed a slide in the price of gold options — contracts which allow the holder to buy or sell the metal at a fixed price. Because it costs less to buy an option for gold than to buy the gold itself, option prices often move volatily.

The dollar was steady and shares around the world hardly moved.

Dealers had warned that the recent rally in gold prices might not be sustainable.

"There is a lot of bullion floating around in the spot market, which could make a further rise difficult," a Zurich precious metals trader said.

Gold started climbing last week on worries that rising soybean prices in the United States would push up the rate of inflation.

It got another boost in Asian trading Wednesday when sharp gains there in rubber, platinum, soybean and cocoon (raw silk)

prices unsettled investors.

The price of bullion was fixed in London at \$458.35 an ounce Wednesday morning, up \$1.10 from Tuesday afternoon's fixing but by midday it fell as low as \$452 before steadying at around \$454.

Platinum prices have also climbed. Many investors look at it, like gold, as a good buy when rising inflation threatens to erode the value of cash or securities.

Platinum prices were up about \$10 an ounce, trading just below \$580.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------|------------------|
| One Sterling | 1.8650/60 | U.S. dollar |
| One U.S. dollar | 1.2412/22 | Canadian dollar |
| | 1.7019/24 | Deutschmarks |
| | 1.9060/70 | Dutch guilders |
| | 1.4210/20 | Swiss francs |
| | 35.46/51 | Belgian francs |
| | 5.7460/90 | French francs |
| | 1263/1264 | Italian lire |
| | 124.35/45 | Japanese yen |
| | 5.9110/60 | Swedish crowns |
| | 6.1850/1900 | Norwegian crowns |
| | 6.4770/4830 | Danish crowns |
| One ounce of gold | 452.00/453.25 | U.S. dollars |

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Stocks closed sharply higher before the May mini-budget, with the market reaching its highest level since last October. The All Ordinaries Index closed 20 points higher at 1,349.7.

TOKYO — Share prices closed higher in active trade, with market sentiment boosted by Wall Street's rebound overnight. The Nikkei Index rose 130.99 to 27,443.65.

HONG KONG — Share prices closed steady but off their early highs in moderately active trading. The Hang Seng Index rose 11.82 to 2,528.00.

SINGAPORE — Prices closed moderately higher over a broad front on speculative buying support and bargain-hunting following gains on Wall Street overnight and in Tokyo. The Straits Times Industrial Index rose 12.4 to 969.42.

BOMBAY — Heavy speculative buying spurred by encouraging corporate news halted a two-day decline in share prices. Tata Steel rose 10 rupees to 733.75.

FRANKFURT — Prices closed a quiet bourse sharply higher, with banks leading the way up after overnight gains on Wall Street. The Commerzbank Index, calculated at mid-session, rose 15.4 to 1,341.1.

ZURICH — Prices closed steady in moderately active trading, buoyed by the overnight gain on Wall Street and a slightly firmer dollar. The Swiss Bank rose 6.5 to 806.6.

PARIS — Prices opened the main floor session strongly higher in brisk trading inspired by Finance Minister Pierre Bergeyrov's optimism on interest rate cuts.

LONDON — Investors took profits after an initial speculative surge, paring down an early gain in the FTSE 100 index. At 1447 GMT the index was up 4.7 at 1,787.6.

NEW YORK — Stocks were higher over a broad front in morning trading but were easing back from early gains, with traders cautious before Thursday's gross national product revision. The Dow was up 12 at 1,974.

Tunisian tourism booms

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia is enjoying a tourist boom, but one of the country's worst droughts and locust plagues in decades is clouding the economic outlook.

More people than ever are visiting Tunisia this year and estimates for 1988 foreign currency receipts from tourism have been revised upwards from budget predictions.

Tourism is now expected to earn 650 million dinars (\$785 million) compared with 575 million dinars (\$695 million) predicted in 1986, according to secretary of state for tourism Ahmed Smaoui.

But economic growth is still expected to slow in 1988 partly because of the badly hit agricultural sector and gross domestic product is forecast to grow by 2.5 per cent after 5.5 per cent last year. Drought has spelled disaster for the cereal harvest which is expected to yield only between 300,000 and 400,000 tonnes after 1.9 million tonnes last year, according to agriculture ministry estimates.

Olive oil production is also expected to be slashed to about one-third its annual average of some 100,000 tonnes, agricultural experts say.

A fall in the value of the dinar against major European and other currencies has made holidays in Tunisia cheaper and overnight stays are up 30 per cent the first four months of this year compared with 1987, Smaoui says.

Among the tourists are Libyans profiting from last December's renewal of diplomatic ties. The free-spending has been like breath of oxygen to the tourism industry, particularly in the south, according to one Tunisian banker.

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Chairman of the selection panel, Royal Jordanian Air Academy, P.O. Box 6191 Amman.

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PLAZA

WHO'S THAT GIRL

Performances: 3.30, 6.00, 8.30, 10.30

Moscow says 13,310 Soviet soldiers killed in Afghan war

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Soviet Union said Wednesday it had lost 13,310 dead in the eight-year war in Afghanistan.

It said 35,478 soldiers wounded and 311 missing in action by the beginning of this month.

The first official casualty figures issued in Moscow on the war were read to a news conference by General Alexei Lizichev, chief of the armed forces political directorate.

"There are casualties in any conflict," Lizichev said. "Our soldiers are returning home with their heads held high after carrying out their internationalist duty to help the Afghan people."

The general told the news conference his figures, which he said covered the period up to early May on the eve of the start of the Soviet military withdrawal, "are absolutely correct."

Lizichev said the pull-out, agreed under international

accords signed in Geneva last month, "is being carried out unswervingly by the Soviet side."

He said by Wednesday, 10 days after the withdrawal began, 9,500 men had left bringing 1,000 pieces of military equipment. But he declined four times to provide figures for the total Soviet force in Afghanistan.

"We will continue to withdraw and those who try to hinder us by force of arms will be decisively crushed," the general declared in a reference to the Afghan Mujahedeen who have pledged to attack Soviet pullout columns.

Lizichev said that half of what Moscow calls its "limited military contingent" would have left Afghanistan by August 15, as provided for in the United Nations-mediated accords.

But first deputy Foreign Minister Yuli Vorontsov, also addressing the news conference, hinted Moscow might reconsider the disposition of its troops if Pakistan continued what he called gross violations of the agreements.

Vorontsov, the Kremlin's top negotiator on Afghanistan, said Pakistan was allowing the guerrillas to continue to use its as a base for military operations by what he called the "fanatical fundamentalist" groups in Peshawar.

"If the Geneva agreements are not carried out by the Pakistani side," he declared, "then we will react as the situation demands."

Pressed to elaborate, he added: "We expect an explanation and correcting action from the Pakistani side. If these are not forthcoming, we may have to call another news conference like this one to say what our reaction will be."

Mujahedeen forces fired rock-

ets into Kabul for the second day running Tuesday and Kabul Radio also reported similar attacks in two provinces.

At least two men were killed, several people wounded, and buildings damaged by rockets that crashed into the Afghan capital's districts of Darulaman and Dehdana.

Western diplomats based in Islamabad said that the insurgents have harassed departing Soviet convoys and overrun a string of bases defended only by Afghan soldiers.

29 killed in Sri Lankan jungle clash

COLOMBO (R) — Six Indian soldiers and at least 23 Tamil guerrillas were killed and 30 rebels wounded in the worst battle since rebels lost their stronghold in northern Sri Lanka last October, an Indian high commission spokeswoman said Wednesday.

She said 11 Indian soldiers were slightly wounded in the battle that began Monday evening and continued until early Tuesday in a rebel hideout in the jungle near Alampili, bordering the districts of Vavuniya and Mullaitivu.

It was the worst clash between Indian troops and the main Tamil separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, since Indian soldiers captured its stronghold at Jaffna in the northern part of the Indian Ocean island last October.

Reagan tries to end Senate INF debate

WASHINGTON (R) — Senate leaders have moved to shut off debate on the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) agreement and President Reagan is expected to have an approved treaty in hand at the Moscow summit.

At the same time, behind-the-scenes talks were taking place to try to get treaty for Jesse Helms to drop his stalling tactics and agree to allow orderly consideration of remaining issues without the need for a forced end to debate.

Democratic leader Robert Byrd and Republican leader Robert Dole met Helms Tuesday and were to meet again together with other influential senators again Wednesday morning, a Dole aide said.

The sudden flurry of movement came after a week of slow-moving debate and overwhelming defeat of amendments proposed by Helms and his allies and as Reagan prepared to leave for Helsinki Wednesday.

Reagan travels on to Moscow for his fourth meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev Sunday.

The White House said Reagan's chief of staff, Howard

Baker, would be standing by in Washington to take the treaty to Reagan as soon as it receives the two-thirds Senate majority vote needed for approval. The vote could take place Friday.

Reagan and his allies in the Senate have pleaded for speedy action on the treaty so that the superpower leaders will be able to exchange ratification documents in Moscow.

This event, capping the first U.S.-Soviet arms accord in nine years, is planned to be a highlight at a summit expected to be short on accomplishments.

Reagan Tuesday made a personal appeal to Helms and other treaty opponents at the White House but Helms gave no public sign of relenting in his anti-treaty tactics.

"My conscience will not allow me not to pursue the obvious flaws in this treaty," Helms told the Senate, as he announced he planned another amendment.



Soviet combat vehicles and troops cross back into the Soviet Union from Afghanistan at Termez

Naval analyst cautions NATO

LONDON (R) — The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) might have misread Soviet naval strategy and could face a surprise wartime attack by submarine forces now massed near Soviet home waters, a senior Western military expert said.

Captain Richard Sharpe, editor of the authoritative annual directory of world navies, Jane's Fighting Ships, told a press conference that the Soviet Union had cut

back naval operations outside its own immediate defence area over the last year.

This had led NATO officials to suspect Moscow had adopted a "wimpish" strategy of pulling back its submarines to form a bastion near home waters.

"It is very easy to get complacent. If 360 submarines go out, then we are going to be caught by surprise. The only playground big enough for such numbers is way

out in the Atlantic," he said.

If the Soviet Union's huge submarine fleet mounted wartime operations concentrated around its own shores, the sheer concentration of vessels could cause chaos in communications.

"Limit its area of operation and its tactical strength is short like Samson's Locks. It is not easy to believe that the Soviets have failed to discover this," Sharpe added.

U.S. softens 'zero tolerance' drug policy

WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorney General Edwin Meese III said Tuesday there is "no softening whatsoever" of the administration's zero tolerance anti-drug policy, despite modifications under which the coast guard will be more cautious about seizing boats outside the 12-mile limit.

Under the administration's zero tolerance policy, law enforcement agencies are cracking down on illegal drug use, no matter how small the amount. With the new changes, however,

vessels outside the 12-mile limit found to be containing drugs will be seized only when there is evidence of intent to smuggle them into the United States.

"I think that whenever you have a new policy there has to be kind of a running-in period where you look at the practical difficulties," Meese told reporters. "There have been some operational refinements, but the policy remains the same."

"Zero tolerance continues to be our policy both inside and

outside the 12-mile limit," Meese said.

Meese emphasised that "within the applicable laws, small quantities of narcotics are not going to be ignored as has occasionally been the situation in the past."

Meese said that in terms of forfeiture of boats on which narcotics are found, law enforcement officials would be more lenient in a case in which narcotics are concealed in a passenger's suitcase without the knowledge of ship's officers

Ethiopian rebels claim 253 army soldiers killed

NAIROBI (AP) — Northern Ethiopian rebels Wednesday said they killed 253 more government troops one day after they claimed to have repulsed a major army offensive and inflicted over 9000 casualties.

The Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF), in a broadcast over its clandestine voice of the broad masses of Eritrea radio monitored in Nairobi, said the government soldiers were killed in fighting Tuesday. The rebels said they also captured 31 troops. They did not say where the

alleged fighting occurred.

On Tuesday, the EPLF claimed they killed or wounded 9,100 army troops and captured 300 in fighting May 13-23 in which they said they repulsed a major government offensive timed to coincide with the Organisation of African Unity's summit and silver jubilee.

The OAU is meeting May 19-28 in Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa.

That fighting was said to have taken place around the town of Afabet, 112 kilometres north of

the Eritrean capital of Asmara.

Afabet fell to the EPLF during a rebel offensive in March.

The inaccessibility of Ethiopia's warzone makes it impossible to get independent verification on claims by either side.

Ethiopia Saturday announced it had launched a counteroffensive against the EPLF and rebels in Tigre, Eritrea's southern neighbour. It had been anticipated since March when both insurgencies declared a string of victories and the army retreated to the major towns.

60 injured, 43 arrested in Chinese soccer riot

BEIJING (AP) — More than a thousand soccer fans stoned

Damaged British ferry docked

DUNKIRK, France (R) — A British channel freight ferry swept by fire that killed one crewman and seriously burned another Monday night was towed into Dunkirk harbour late Tuesday, port officials said.

They said the Seafreight Ferry had been towed by a tug on loan to the French navy from where it was stranded some 44.8 kilometres east of the English port of Ramsgate.

The ship will be examined by French maritime experts Wednesday, officials said.

The fire aboard the Seafreight Ferry was brought under control early Tuesday after an international air-sea rescue operation with ships and helicopters was launched from Britain, France and Belgium.

police and players and looted a hotel and police station after police detained one unruly fan, an official report said Wednesday. More than 60 police were reported injured.

Police arrested 43 people during the violence that began Monday and continued through Tuesday morning in the southwestern town of Nanchong in Sichuan province, the Sports News said.

It said 13 of the police were seriously injured, but did not say how many fans were hurt.

The incident appeared symptomatic of growing violence in Chinese society in the past few years. One the one hand, official control over people's lives have relaxed somewhat, but frustrations have risen because incomes have not soared as quickly as expected.

Sports News said the riot began at 6:45 p.m. (0945 GMT) when several fans jumped into the field to protest the referee's calls at the

end of a 1-1 match between the Sichuan province and Tianjin City youth teams.

Police detained one worker for questioning, the report said, prompting more than 1,000 other fans to block the stadium gate and demand his release, the report said. The rioters threw bricks, stones and bottles at the police and retiring players, smashed windows and set a police car on fire.

Mexican oil tank fire forces thousands to flee

CHIHUAHUA, Mexico (AP) — Fire broke out at an oil tank farm, forcing thousands to evacuate populated neighbourhoods and threatening to ignite millions of gallons of gasoline before it was tamed.

No deaths were reported, the International Red Cross said.

At least 20,000 Mexicans fled their homes and one estimate said 200,000 were evacuated after the explosion and fire Tuesday at the farm of 15 storage tanks belonging to the state oil monopoly Pemex.

Pemex headquarters in Mexico City said the tank, capable of holding 30,000 barrels, or about 4.8 million litres (1.26 million gallons), exploded at mid-morning. Fire and smoke soared more than 45 metres (150 feet).

The government news agency Notimex quoted a fire department report as saying the cause of the fire was leaking gas ignited by a spark.

Notimex said the burning tank contained a light-grade petroleum and the other, 14 held gasoline. Four of the nearby tanks were "very close" to the

burning tank, the news agency said.

Chihuahua state government spokesman Alfonso Sanchez Gallo said the only injuries were among a handful of more than 300 firefighters, some of whom suffered light burns.

"Everything is perfectly controlled and there is no risk that the fire might spread to other tanks," he said.

Sanchez Gallo said the firefighters were draining the burning tank from beneath until the fire died out.

The news agency quoted Mario Perez, commander of the local fire department, as saying that soldiers, police and volunteers evacuated tens of thousands of people from a two-mile radius around the plant.

Later, Notimex gave its own estimate of 200,000 people evacuated.

Red Cross radio dispatcher Olga Rojo said efforts to control the blaze were hampered by a scarcity of water. Much of northern Mexico is suffering from drought this season.

Jurists hear 1932-1933 Ukraine famine case

BRUSSELS (AP) — A panel of seven international jurists heard allegations Tuesday that the Soviet Union starved millions of Ukrainians in the 1930s to break their resistance.

The jurists comprised the International Commission of Inquiry into the Famine in Ukraine 1932-1933.

They were called together by the Canadian-based world congress of Free Ukrainians whose legal counsel urged them "to find that the famine was deliberately caused as an instrument of (Soviet) state policy."

"The famine was an act of genocide," John Sopinka said. "Special measures against Ukraine were designed to break the spirit of the most recalcitrant of peasants opposed to collectivisation" under Soviet leader Joseph Stalin, he added.

The Soviet Union has said food shortages hit the Ukraine during the 1930s but has rejected charges these had been orchestrated by the state to subdue the population.

The commission invited a representative of the Soviet Union to

its Brussels hearings. But no Soviet official has attended the meeting since it opened Monday, organisers said.

No precise death toll of the Ukrainian famine is known but Sopinka suggested it ranged from seven to 10 million.

Soviet censuses from 1926 and 1939 showed that the number of Soviet Ukrainians declined from 31 to 28 million.

The commission of inquiry includes seven legal experts from the United States, Sweden, France, Belgium, Great Britain, Argentina and Canada. It will issue an opinion about the Ukrainian famine Friday.

"Our business is a moral and serious one, Jacob Sundberg, the commission's Swedish chairman, said Monday.

"To many people it may seem strange that we in 1988 should direct an inquiry into events said to have taken place so many years earlier."

"Nonetheless, in order to focus ... on the possible significance of such events to the future of mankind, we shall review the facts of these past events."

Philippine guard surrenders

MANILA (AP) — A presidential guard who ran amok and killed 11 people in a Manila suburb last weekend has surrendered, authorities said Wednesday.

A spokesman for the Presidential Security Group said Sergeant Marciano Contaoe surrendered to his commander, Colonel Voltaire Gazmin, Tuesday.

Captain Rolando Medrano, deputy chief of military operations, chief of the presidential guard, said Contaoe had been turned over to the capital command.

Medrano said a fellow guardsman, Sergeant Nestor Lapi, negotiated a safe conduct pass for Contaoe. Lapi then went to the town of Bautista in Pangasinan province, 144 kilometres northwest of Manila, where the wanted soldier fled after the massacre Saturday.

Police said Contaoe, armed with a .45-calibre pistol, killed three of his drinking companions after a heated argument in the Manila suburb of Taguig. After the shooting, Contaoe went to his house and moments later emerged with an M-16 assault rifle.

He ran to a nearby house and sprayed the occupants with gunfire, killing seven. He killed a taxi driver as he escaped.

Contaoe surrendered his pistol to his superiors and the assault rifle was recovered by police in an isolated grassland in a neighbouring town.

Angloan rebels claim 17 soldiers killed

LISBON (R) — Angola's pro-Western UNITA rebels said Tuesday they killed 17 government soldiers in a bomb attack on a railway station on the Benguela line. The account differed from a report Saturday by the official Angolan News Agency ANGOP that government forces had foiled an attempt to sabotage on the railway near the town of Huambo in the centre of the country and killed four rebels. A statement distributed in Lisbon by the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) said rebels attacked Huambo station late Friday night as a train arrived from the east carrying war supplies. "The building of the Benguela railway station at Huambo, the repair facilities for locomotives and some three tonnes of war materiel, were destroyed," it said. Three Cubans were among the soldiers killed in the attack and the rebels suffered one dead and nine wounded, the statement said.

4 Philippine landslide survivors unearthed

MANILA (R) — Rescuers unearthed four survivors screaming for help after they were buried in a landslide that killed at least 23 people in the southern Philippines, Red Cross officials said Wednesday. Red Cross area chief Minerva Tongson said the survivors were an elderly man, a woman and two children aged four and six. They were rescued two hours after a pre-dawn landslide Sunday buried their huts in a mountain village in Davao Del Sur Province. They are being treated for minor injuries. Rescue teams were still digging through rocks, mud and fallen trees to retrieve bodies. Tongson said. The victims, who were sleeping when the landslide occurred, had refused to vacate their homes despite warnings of a possible disaster following heavy rains, she added.

Soviet attache expelled from Switzerland

BERNE (R) — Switzerland said Wednesday it had expelled a Soviet diplomat who spent years spying on military, political and economic targets. The federal prosecutor's office said the diplomat, who was not named, had already left the country. It said the Soviet embassy attache was a member of the State Committee for Science and Technology (GKNT) and had sought in particular information on restricted Western aerospace and armaments technology from Swiss companies and individuals. Switzerland has lodged a protest with the Soviet Union over its abuse of diplomatic status for espionage, as it had after expelling other GKNT members on similar charges in 1986 and 1987.

Radio says Marcos may be hospitalised

HONOLULU (R) — Former Philippines President Ferdinand

Marcos has been taken to hospital, a Filipino radio station in Hawaii reported Tuesday night. The station, Kisa, said Marcos, 70, was taken to the intensive care unit of the Saint Francis hospital. Details of his illness were not known. A spokeswoman for the hospital refused to confirm or deny reports that Marcos had been admitted and telephone calls to the home of the ousted president were met with a busy signal. Marcos has lived in Hawaii with his wife Imelda since he was toppled in a popular revolt in February 1986 and replaced by President Corazon Aquino. Rumours have long persisted that he is in ill health.

Moscow fish farm explosion kills 8

MOSCOW (AP) — What began as a small fire in a storage area of a fish farm east of Moscow set off a devastating explosion that killed eight people and seriously injured three others, the nightly news programme Vremya reported Tuesday. The broadcast showed footage of what appeared to have been a massive brick storehouse reduced to rubble, and an announcer said the blast was likely the result of chemicals or fuel improperly stored. A.V. Larin, deputy chief of the Moscow region's Fire Prevention Service, told the news programme that local firefighters responded to a report at 11:15 p.m. Sunday of a fire at the warehouse in the town of Yegorievsk, about 100 kilometres east of Moscow. Six of the fatalities were among firemen who arrived to put out the blaze, and the other two were fishermen who had been standing nearby, the report said. Three others were in serious condition at a local hospital, the broadcast said, without specifying whether they were firefighters or bystanders. An investigation has been ordered into the cause of the deadly explosion, Vremya said. The news announcer reported that enterprises of the Soviet ministry of fisheries in the Russian republic alone have been struck by fire 526 times over the past two years and that 63 people have been killed in the blazes.

Colombian rebels kill 2 soldiers

BOGOTA (AP) — The army said Tuesday that leftist guerrillas killed two soldiers and blew up a bridge, gas and oil pipelines and a high-voltage electricity transmission tower. Guerrillas on a peasant march in eastern Colombia near a government oil field killed the two soldiers Monday, and one of the guerrillas was killed, General Yanine Diaz said in a communique. Ecopetrol, the Colombian government's oil company, had summoned the army to its oil field near Lizama because leaders of the peasant march had demanded that the field be closed, the general said. When the soldiers arrived, they were met with gunfire, Diaz said. The fighting occurred about 255 kilometres northeast of the capital, near the city of Bucaramanga. The general's report said the guerrillas are part of the National Liberation Army and the Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces.

Diggers turn paid archaeologists

BAHRAIN (R) — Telephone workmen stumbled on 5,000-year old relics while digging trenches for an underground cable and have become paid archaeologists. Dave Foster, an engineer with Bahrain Telecommunications Company (Batelco), said 25 employees had been working on the archaeological dig since April instead of laying cables at a projected cost to the company of up to 10,000 dinars (\$26,500). The dig began after workers sifting sand at the site near Al Hajar village unearthed pottery and seals from the island's ancient Dilmun civilisation. "We began doing archaeology to dig up the finds before getting on with our own work," he told Reuters. Officials at Bahrain's Tourism and Archaeology Directorate said the finds, which include a Dilmun seal, pottery, bronzes and human bones, could date back to 2300 BC.

Honolulu homes most expensive

WASHINGTON (R) — Buying a home in Honolulu, Hawaii, costs more on average than in any other U.S. metropolitan area, according to a property industry survey released on Tuesday. The survey by the National Association of Realtors said the median price of an existing single-family home sold in Honolulu during the first quarter of 1988 was \$198,400. Louisville, Kentucky, homes, at \$51,100, were the least expensive of the 61 metropolitan areas surveyed by the trade group. Homes in the New York metropolitan area, including Long Island and northern New Jersey, came in second to Honolulu at \$186,600. Rounding out the top five most expensive areas were Orange County, California, \$183,800, the San Francisco Bay area, \$178,800 and Boston, \$176,900.

Prostitute says Swaggart had sex with her

BATON ROUGE, Louisiana (AP) — A prostitute claims television evangelist Jimmy Swaggart engaged in sexual intercourse with her once and asked that her nine-year-old daughter watch sex acts, according to Penthouse magazine. The article in the July issue is the first report on Swaggart's alleged sexual encounters to say that he engaged in sexual intercourse. In previous interviews, the prostitute, Debra Murphree, has said Swaggart paid her to perform lewd acts while he watched. The Penthouse interview is accompanied by explicit photos in which Murphree demonstrates the acts she said Swaggart asked her to perform. The reported meetings with Murphree led to Swaggart's removal from the pulpit by the Assemblies of God Church. Swaggart stopped preaching for three months but returned to the pulpit Sunday without his denomination credentials.

People put less gold into mouths

LONDON (R) — Gold teeth and fillings are steadily going out of fashion and dentists used less gold last year than ever before, a leading metals analyst said Monday. But people are still putting gold in their mouths, said George Milling-Stanley of Consolidated Goldfields Plc in the company's annual market review. Japanese gourmets now eat the metal, albeit in very small quantities. Milling-Stanley said. Tiny gold flakes are sprinkled over various dishes, but appear to make little difference to the taste.

New Bond movie 'License Revoked'

KEY WEST (AP) — Secret agent 007, the man with a license to kill, is coming to the Florida Keys to be shot by a film crew and have his "License Revoked" in a film by the same name. The 16th James Bond movie will be filmed for four weeks on Key West starting in August, according to city officials. "I understand that he will be filming in Key West, Sugarloaf Key and on seven-mile bridge," said Bob Perry, executive director of the Key West Chamber of Commerce. "License Revoked" will star Timothy Dalton as Ian Fleming's daredevil British agent and show him coming to Key West to meet his old ally, CIA agent Felix Leiter, city officials said. The script, based on John Gardner's book "License Renewed," is expected to be typical Bond — loaded with beautiful women and intrigue.